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(The national voice of Indo-Canadians)

Racial attack in Edmonton

By Paul Cashman

A law student from India working as a cabbie to pay for his schooling was severely beaten and robbed recently by six men who called him a Paki.

John Kurian, who practised law in India until he came to Canada four years ago, had planned to leave Thursday for a 21-day conference in American legal history in Washington, D.C.

His right eye swollen shut, face covered with cuts and bruises and voice strained after being choked by two of his attackers, the 34-year-old explained from his hospital bed that he had been driving a cab part-time to save the $1,500 needed to attend the conference at Georgetown University.

He picked up six men in their early 20s in front of the Hotel Macdonald and drove toward 99th Street and 91st Avenue.

When they reached a secluded area one of the men asked Mr. Kurian to turn off the car's communications radio and turn on some music.

When he refused two men seated in the back clutched Mr. Kurian by the throat and began choking him while the men seated in the front seat punched him in the face.

The other men grabbed about $70 from a shirt pocket and then also began punching and kicking him.

"They were hitting me and calling me a Paki. They said why should you get to come to this country.

"They said I probably had money hidden in my shoe so they took my shoes as well."

The men took the key from the ignition of the cab and after beating him for about 10 minutes they left him unconscious in the car.

"I think I was unconscious for about 15 minutes", he said.

"When I woke up the key was gone. I couldn't drive the car or use the radio to call for help."

After walking painfully for about a block he found another cab driver who used his radio to call for an ambulance and the police.

He says he intends to quit driving a cab while he completes studies that will qualify him to practise law in Canada.

The Edmonton Journal.

India battles population growth

In the six minutes it would take you to finish a cup of tea, 246 children are born in India.

The total population of India, now about 650 million by a rough estimate, is increasing by 33,000 every day - 59,000 births against 26,000 deaths. Since 1951, the population has gone up by more than 75 per cent and at the present rate of demographic upsurge, India will have one billion of the total 5.8 billion world population by the turn of the century.

the population has spiralled despite the tremendous resources expended on the family planning drive. From a measly Rs. 1.45 million during the first five-year Plan, the allocation rose to Rs 2844.3 million during the fourth Plan and Rs 4973.6 million (outlay) during the fifth Plan.

In spite of all these efforts, the population growth is getting out of control. The primary reason for this is the big fall in the death rate: from 22.8 per thousand in 1951-61 to 14 per thousand in the late seventies. In some developed States like Kerala, the rate has dropped to 7.9. There is a big fall in the infant mortality rate also.

It is incorrect to say that the family planning programme has not made any significant dent. The over-all birth rate has been reduced from about 45 per thousand two decades ago to 32.9, (according to a United Nations estimate, the decline has been at least 10 per cent during the last decade).

However, the performance has not been up to the mark. The Government was therefore forced to change the target from 25 per 1000 to 30 three years ago. Kottayam district in Kerala - with the predominance of Christians - has the lowest birth rate in India: 20 per thousand which is just a little more than Japan.

This fact demolishes the theory of the opponents of sterilisation that Hindus are the only "victims" of the family planning programme and a vigorous implementation of the scheme will leave the Hindus in a minority in their "own land".

Demographer George Simmons estimates that by preventing a birth, the country's gain can be as high as Rs 5,800. The cost of performing a vasectomy operation , on the other hand, works out to be Rs 57.

The birth rate has been very high in North India with Uttar Pradesh leading closely, followed by Haryana. The Western belief that literacy and population control go together has been shattered by the Orissa experience where the literacy rate is just 30.5 but the target achievement has been 77.4, one of the highest in 1978-79. And though the rural literacy rate is just 28.09 against the urban 57.02, about 90 per cent of the sterilisation operations were performed in the villages.

The sterilisation drive suffered a terrible setback in 1977-78, probably due to adverse publicity and the revised policy of the Janata Government. The record figure of 7.2 million sterilisations during the Emergency enforced by Mrs. Indira Gandhi in 1976-77 plummeted to 794000 in 1977-78.

As early as 1976, much before the Emergency, the Centre for Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University had found in a study that 70 per cent of the men sterilised were either young and unmarried or too old.

The eminent Indian demographer Chandrasekhar once remarked to a group of Delhi University students that if all of them could be flown abroad for three years for trade or study and stayed unmarried till they returned, India would have solved the baby boom. But this could not be done due to scant resources. In effect, the comment implies that if the marriage age is raised by legislation or force, India might have no population problem.

New routes for railways

New Delhi, (UNI) - India's National Transport Policy Committee has recommended planning alternative rail routes, especially for coal movement to relieve congestion.

In its report the committee says where existing routes are heavily congested, even after doubling the tracks, building an altogether new route between the main points will give the system a better viability than addition of a third track. This enables alternative routes to operate during dislocations caused by natural calamities.

The committee says the Railways should reduce the differential in speeds between freight trains and mail or express trains to increase line capacity. The difference of 40 km an hour is quite large.

It says there is no escape from a continuous and speedy increase in rail traffic of bulk goods like coal, cement, fertilisers and foodgrains. If unit trains carrying such traffic could run at a speed of 90 kmph, it will considerably reduce turnround time and wagons requirement.

This will necessitate improvement in wagon design and track structure. Investment in this area will be a step in the right direction as this will help in improving rail efficiency and in the long run prove economical.

The committee says that in the next two decades the railway net-work will need to be expanded by at least 5,000 km involving a capital outlay of Rs 12.5 billion (1.58 billion dollars) at current prices.

This is not too great a burden if the importance of Indian Railways is taken into account in the future transport system of the country.

It feels that an allocation of Rs 3 billion in each five-year Plan over the next two decades at current prices for new railway lines is justified and reasonable.

The committee feels that the Indian network has remained static since independence and for a country of India's size with its population, vast potential and anticipated growth of traffic its expansion is essential.

Saving the Taj

New Delhi, Sept. 7 (UNI) — The Union Government has appointed a high-powered seven-member committee to oversee measures being taken to save Taj Mahal from the danger of pollutants from the proposed Mathura oil refinery 45 kms from Agra in Uttar Pradesh.

According to official sources, the Committee consists of the secretaries of the Ministries of Science and Technology, Works and Housing, Education, Petroleum and Technical Development Ministries. Also on the committee are the Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Government, and the Chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation The Science and Technology Secretary is the Chairman of the Committee.

The Union Cabinet had desired that the following measures be taken:

1). The two existing coal-based power plants at Agra should be closed down;

2) Efforts should be made to shift the existing small industries at Agra, particularly the foundries, so that their emissions will not harm the Taj and other monuments.

3). No new industry which can cause pollution should be permitted in Agra.

4). The railways should switch over from steam to diesal locomotives in the marshalling yard at Agra.

5) The Union Works and Housing Minstry should be designated as the modal ministry for dealing with the pollution problems in the Agra-Mathura area.

6). At least three or four pollution monitoring stations should be established at suitable locations between the refinery and Agra. These stations should become operational well before the commissioning of the refinery and.

7). Scientific studies should be undertaken to find out the effects of sulphur dioxide as well as oxides of nitrogen on marble and red stone.

The Committee chairman has held several meetings with the railway authorities to expedite the implementation of the Cabinet's recommendations concerning dieselisation of the railway shunting yard.

Wife kidnaps husband

New Delhi (IBS) - A retired railway employee of Gondal was allegedly kidnapped by his wife and two accomplaces, and wrongfully detained for a month.

The 62-year-old employee stated that he was returning from the office of the collectorate with some documents of land he owned when his wife and her aides fell upon him and took him to a house by force where he was locked up for a month. He was only released following the surrender of the documents of the land.

The man, in his report, stated that he and his wife had been separated since 1953. The woman and one son have been arrested in connection with the crime.

PUNJAB POWER GAP

Patiala, (UNI) — An energy gap of 1,056 million units between the availability and the anticipated requriement of power is feared in Punjab during the current financial year.

Mexico to supply crude

New Delhi (UNI) - Mexico has agreed to supply one million tonnes of oil to India.

According to sources close to the Petroleum Ministry, the Government was trying to find a suitable party to import oil under a 'swap" arrangement to avoid incurring huge freight cost involved in bringing the oil all the way from Mexico.

India has been exploring the possibility of importing crude from new sources such as Mexico, Venezuela and Algeria. Algeria had also indicated its willingness to supply oil.

In 1980, a major portion of the country's crude requirements will come from Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the Soviet Union, the United Arab Emirates and Nigeria.

The leading suppliers are Iran and Iraq. While Iran had supplied five million tonnes so far, Iraq has supplied six million tonnes of crude.

An official delegation is to visit Iran soon to finalise imports for next year.

The Government has decided to import 75,000 tonnes of kerosene this month.

The anticipated foreign exchange outgo on account of oil imports in 1980-81 would be Rs.50 billion (6.25 billion dollars). The total import bill for oil has been pushed up by Rs 10 billion (1.25 billion dollars) as 4.5 million tonnes of petroleum products like naphtha, high speed diesel and kerosene had to be imported following disruption in supplies from north-east. India which is in the grip of an agitation in the issue of foreign nationals settled in the area. This was in addition to the import of 16.2 million tonnes of crude valued at Rs 21.95 billion (2.75 billion dollars) during 1979-80.

Colour TV

New Delhi, Sept 7 — Indian Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Vasant Sathe hopes he would be able to implement his pet scheme for colour television in the country by the time the Asian Games are held here early in 1982.

Although the scheme suffered a setback with the pronouncement by prime minister Indira Gandhi a few days ago that the changeover from the present black and white television to expensive colour should be slow and determined on the basis of priorities - this was interpreted to mean that she was not very much in favour of the proposal - the information minister has been quietly persuing his pet project. Experts in his ministry have countered the criticism that conversion to colour TV would be excessively costly. They have said this is not so, and that even for the public, colour TV sets would only be reasonably costlier than their present black and white sets.

Plastic crisis

Calcutta, (UNI) — A large number of small-scale plastic units in India are facing a crisis because of high internal prices of raw materials.

The price of naptha, which is the basic raw material for the units, went up by 140 percent last year as a result of the Government decision to impose the entire burden of higher oil prices on the non-fertiliser users of naphtha. This year also the price of naphtha has gone up by Rs. 200 per tonne because of additional Government levy under the latest Budget.

The plastic units are very much disappointed that the Union Government did not heed its repeated appeals for lowering the excise duty on naphtha, although it had promised to look into the matter sympathetically.

Being small-scale, these units are hardly in a position to absorb the higher burden of excise duty. Almost 98 percent of the plastic units are in the small-scale sector, representing investment below Rs. one million. Altogether there are 10,000-12,000 plastic units in the country all of which are currently running substantially below capacity.

Madurai (Tamil Nadu), Sept. 5 (UNI) — Kerala Chief Minister E.K. Nayanar has warned the Centre against playing the "law and order" problem to destabilize non-congress (I) Governments in the states.

Mr. Nayanar who was delivering the keynote address at a seminar on "Autonomy for States" here, said that in four Indian states non-Congress(I) Governments had come to power and it was not accidental that they took more or less similar steps in matters relating to the uplift of the weaker sections.

Five Bills passed by the Kerala Assembly, some of them unanimously, were still pending with the Union Government awaiting the President's assent, Mr. Nayanar pointed out. They were the Kerala Casual, Temporary and Badli Workers' Wage Bill, the Cashew Workers Relief and Welfare Fund Bill, The Public Property Destruction and Prevention of Loss Bill and the Land Reform Amendment Bill invalidating tenancies created after 1964.

Illegal sale of tickets

New Delhi, Sept. 5 (UNI(— Indian Airlines has sought the help of the central bureau of investigations to stop illegal sale of tickets to gulf passengers on the Bombay-Cochine route, it is reliably learnt. Some junior officials of the Airport Authority, Indian Airlines and the police at Bombay's Santa Cruz Airport are believed to be responsible for the illegal sale of tickets on this route, sources close to the Airlines said.

These sources said the some unscrupulous people were charging two to three hundred rupees per ticket from Gulf passengers to provide them seats on Bombay-Cochine flight.

An Airlines source said the Gulf passengers were contacted in the customs clearance hall and were informed by "touts" that tickets were not available for Cochin, but if they were prepared to pay some premium money they could obtain confirmed seats for them.

It is learnt that the exploitation of Gulf passengers is going on at the Bombay airport for nearly a year and the persons involved in it have made thousands of rupees.

The Airlines has taken a number of steps and has advised its staff to render all help to the Gulf passengers and end this exploitation.

The Airlines has also increased the seating capacity by starting an additional flight from Bombay to Cochin.

In addition to two Boeing flights, the Airlines also operates an airbus on the route thus increasing its passenger carrying capacity to 500.

The airport authorities have been asked to see that unauthorized people were not allowed to contact genuine international passengers and passengers from the Gulf area.

Narayan US envoy

New Delhi (IBS) — K.R. Narayanan who is vice-chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, has been named India's Ambassador to the United States. New Delhi is already understood to have sent word to Washington about the Government's desire to appoint Narayanan as its ambassador.

Narayanan is one of India's most experienced diplomats and before retiring from foreign service he had served as India's Ambassador to Peking. It is understood that Narayanan was personally chosen for the job by Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

New industrial venture

New Delhi (UNI) — Close on the heels of the Kerala Government's call to young entrepreneurs belonging to the State and working in the Gulf area to invest their savings in industrial undertakings at home comes the report of the launching of a big industrial venture near Trichur.

For the first time in Kerala, the public sector and the private sector would jointly own and operate the Rs. 30 million (approximately 3.75 million dollars) industrial project with the newly formed SIDECO-Mohan Tools Kerala Limited as the mother unit. The Small Industries Development and Employment Corporation Ltd. (SIDECO), a government with headquartrs at Ghaziabad in Delhi, are partners in the new venture.

Mohan Meakins, which has grown from the brewery industry and diversified into various other fields of activity with subsidiaries in Bhutan, Nepal, Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria will hold 49 per cent of capital in the new concern under the name "SIDECO-Mohan Tools Kerala Ltd." SIDECO will hold 51 percent of the capital.

LAW SANS ELEPHANTS

New Delhi (IBS) - Wild elephants have become extinct in Andhra Pradesh, but a law for their protection is still enforced since 1967. Mrs. Gandhi, who referred to it in her speech in a meeting of the Forestry committee said: "The act itself was preserved in this state while the animals were left to die out."

PMs disagree

New Delhi, India (UPI) - Sixteen regional Commonwealth heads of state failed today to resolve their differences over Afghanistan and Cambodia, settling on a communique with softened language aimed at Moscow.

The leaders, in effect, agreed to disagree.

"It was a very unusual discussion that allowed for disagreement," said Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who presided over the second conference of Commonwealth government heads in the Asia-Pacific region.

The communique, couched in language that India has used on the Afghanistan crisis, called for a "political settlement" and "stressed the need to de-escalate tensions".

Snake ordeal

New Delhi (IBS) — T. Velayudham, 33, began a dare-devil feat of staying with 45 venomous snakes for 75 days in a specially erected glass chamber at the Calicut stadium.

Keeping him company for the record breaking stay will be 25 cobras, 12 karaits, three Indian vipers and five saw-scaled vipers, among the deadliest reptiles found in India.

Velayudhan, an office attendent at the Kerala State Electricity Board, entered the three-metre-by-three meter chamber at 4.25 pm. Clad in a pair of trousers, shoes and socks, a full-sleeved pullover, he was led to the chamber by U. Khaire, a young herpetologist from Pune, who had created a world record by staying with 72 snakes in a chamber for 72 hours last January.

An arm chair, a wooden table, a stool, an ash-tray have been kept inside the cage where the reptiles let out by Khaire were wriggling and hissing. Velayudhan began his stunt by cuddling a hissing cobra to his chest, caressing another snake while separating two others entangled in a fight.

His wife and three daughters were among the invitees present to witness the commencement of the ordeal. Velayudhan also plans to stay in a cage with 101 snakes for 101 hours to break Khaire's record.

He currently is trying to break the record set by an African woman, Leigh Wdnerberg, who stayed with 36 reptiles for 61 days.

Pak loan

Bombay, Sept. 7 (UNI) — Pakistan has recently arranged to secure the largest-ever commercial loan in its history through a band of international banks.

Under this loan agreement, Pakistan will receive $200 million in two tranches, one, a US bankers' acceptance and the other, a Euro-currency loan.

The financing was originally planned for $100 million, but, because of the exceptional market response, this amount was more than 100 percent, oversubscribed and the government of Pakistan agreed to take advantage of the keen market ikinterest.

This loan will be used by Pakistan for the import of a variety of commodities, including fertilisers, wheat and edible oil during 1980-81.

Mammoth IA fleet

New Delhi (IBS) — Indian Airlines will go in for a massive fleet expansion in the next 10 years, strengthening its fleet more than three times the present amount.

A.K. Mehta, Indian Airlines Chairman, said that the airline estimated a capacity of about 20 widebodied jets, and 50 narrow body jets by 1990. The airline has just eight widebodied airbuses and 17 Boeing 737 aircraft currently.

The airline was planning to invest four times as much in the expansion of its capacity over the next 10 years as it had done in the decade past. The aim was to carry 20 million passengers in 1990, as compared to six million in 1981.

Smuggling arms

Amritsar (Punjab), Sept. 12 : Police recovered 95 Pakistan-made revolvers worth about Rs 200,000 after an encounter with a gang at a spot close to the international border.

Police had laid an ambush at night, on receipt of a tip-off, and at early dawn they saw two men furtively coming in from the Pakistan side of the border. Four others, three of them women, followed.

After a brief encounter, the police party arrested the arms smugglers. The two men who came first were found to be carrying 20 revolvers. They were identified as Surjan Singh and Amrik Singh. Police said the men stated, on interrogation, that the revolvers were intended for delivery to Hazara Masih, an arms smuggler.

In the raids on the homes of the suspected contacts, 75 more revolvers were seized.

Thugs help

New Delhi (IBS) — Large-scale poster warefare is currently on in the Capital in connection with the forthcoming Delhi University Students Union election. The war is not merely about how many posters will be put up, but how many posters will be pulled down.

Large-scale removal of posters from the Capital, has resulted in completed breakdown of law and order in the University Campus. The main political groups involved have all hired professional goondas to assist them in their election campaign. Groups have been imported scavengers from other States - even as far south as Karnataka.

The National Students Union of India (I) appears to have a clear lead in the campaign of posters.

Woman burnt for child lifting

New Delhi (IBS) - A middle aged woman was burnt to death at Dharampuri by a mob who suspected her to be a child lifter. Since rumours of child lifting had been rife for several days, any stranger in town was suspected to be a kidnapper.

Some persons who noticed the woman "trying to entice" two children caught her, and a mob which soon collected dragged her out into the public square, poured kerosene oil on her clothing and set it ablaze. By the time the police arrived, she was dead.

Flood dam

New Delhi, India (UPI) - The death toll rose to 1,700 Tuesday in monsoon-triggered floods ravaging India with landslides, boat accidents, collapsing homes and drownings claiming more lives.

In heavily hit Uttar Pardesh, 25 more deaths occurred throughout the flat, impoverished and overcrowded state in the past 24 hours, bringing the total to 1,200. "The death toll this year is the highest in the recorded history of Uttar Pradesh," the Press Trust of India said.

Rescue workers fought swirling flood waters in Allahabad to save more than 100,000 villagers trapped for the past nine days by lashing monsoon rains.

"We just don't know how to save them," said Allahabad District Magistrate R.A. Prasad.

Hundreds of policemen, civil officials and medical crews splashed through the flood waters in small boats, handing out food and medicine to those they could reach.

Many villagers in the Allahpur complex of Allahabad, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's hometown, took refuge on the rooftops of their homes. "few want to be evacuated from their crumbling homes because they fear their property may be burgalarized by marauding bandits," an Allahabad police officer said.

Twenty mi migrants

New Dehli, Sept 5 (UNI) — There were roughly 20 million migrant workers in the world in the late 1970s, of whom 12 million were from the Developing countries, according to a World Bank study.

Some six million were in the United States (mostly Mexican), five million in Western Europe and three million in the middle east (other destinations include the West African coast and the mines of South Africa).

The number in Western Europe increased from two million in the early 1960s, and then declined. But this was more than offset by an upsurge of migration to the

Critic of "Draf move

Hyderabad (UNI) - Janata Party president Chandrashekhar said here that the "draft Rajiv" move by some senior Congress(I) leaders meant that 650 million people of the country had become irrelevant to a party which professed to accept Parliamentary democracy, and what mattered was one individual who had not even entered politics yet.

Talking to newsmen here, Mr. Chandrashekhar said the "peti-

Cement distri

Bombay (UNI) — Indian industrialist Naval Tata has urged the Union Government to improve the control machinery for cement distribution so that the consumers did not feel that cement was unavailable at controlled prices.

In an interview to UNI here, Mr. Tata said if the Government found it difficult to improve the control machinery, it should leave a part of the distribution to the manufacturers and handle only essnetial supplies like those to Government and public sector

Flood damage

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Combined with flood-caused deaths throughout northern India, news reports placed the death toll at 1,700 people.

Indians are perishing in landslides, boat accidents, collapsing houses, and cholera outbreaks caused by the rising muddy brown waters.

About 30,000 villages with an estimated combined population of about 17 million in Uttar Pradesh have been seriously affected by the water which destroys mud brick houses and carries away livestock.

Doctors and medical students have been ordered to sail into submerged villages and innoculate marooned people against a possible outbreak of cholera and other diseases.

Drinking water was polluted by overflowing sewage from the city and decomposing carcasses of pigs, cows and water buffaloes littered the flooded plains.

Villagers carrying their belongings wrapped in blankets atop their heads waded towards rescue boats in various parts of the flooded state to be taken to refugee camps until the rising waters subside.

In nearby Benares, a holy Hindu city, mourners found it difficult to burn corpses because the monsoon-swollen Ganges River flooded the main cremation ground.

Twenty million migrants

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The number in Western Europe increased from two million in the early 1960s, and then declined. But this was more than offset by an upsurge of migration to the West Asian oil-rich countries. More than two million of the migrant workers in Europe are from developing countries (mainly Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey and Yugoslavia). In the middle east nearly two million have come from other countries of the region, while most of the other one million are from South Asia.

Remittances to developing countries have grown rapidly, from about 3 billion dollars in 1970 to an estimated 17.5 billion dollars in 1980 of these more than three billion dollars west to south Asia, five billion dollars to the middle east and North Africa and 7 billion dollars to southern Europe.

Critic of "Draft Rajive" move

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Talking to newsmen here, Mr. Chandrashekhar said the "petitioning in favour of Rajiv Gandhi by Cabinet ministers and legislators was 'degenerating and demeaning". It was a mass humiliation of the entire Congress (I) party, reducing all its members to mere petitioners.

Nearly 300 Congress (I) members of Parliament have already signed a memorandum to the Prime Minister Indira Gandhi requesting her to induct her son Rajiv Gandhi into the Congress (I) party.

Cement distribution

Bombay (UNI) — Indian industrialist Naval Tata has urged the Union Government to improve the control machinery for cement distribution so that the consumers did not feel that cement was unavailable at controlled prices.

In an interview to UNI here, Mr. Tata said if the Government found it difficult to improve the control machinery, it should leave a part of the distribution to the manufacturers and handle only essential supplies like those to Government and public sector bodies, hospitals and other national institutions.

Clarifying his earlier remarks, made at a symposium on the "rationale of Government control in growing economy" held under the auspices of the Kesari Mahratta Trust here, Naval Tata said he had not suggested complete withdrawal of control on items like cement as reported in a section of the press. He had only called for an assessment whether the Government control of cement had resulted in fair distribution.

Better telephone urged

New Delhi (UNI) — A delegation of the Delhi exporters Association recently complained to the Union Minister for Communications, C.M. Stephen, that constant failure of telephone and telex services had cost its members at least Rs. 100 million in export trade loss.

The malaise in the working of the telecommunication department has indeed caught the attention of the Minister and there is evidence that he is keen on setting matters right. The entire communications sytem appears to be falling short of the demands on it, caused by the nation's newspapers one finds columns of public complaints about the working of the telephones and the gross inadequacy of this essential facility.

Mr. Stephen was quoted as having said recently that to provide even half this number of telephones required equipment worth Rs. 88 crores must be imported immediately.

Even as the countrywide demand for telephone connections increases by 200,000 every year, the provision made for 1980-81 is only for 1,70,000 telephones. In Delhi, a Posts and Telegraphs official estimated that it would take at least 10 more years, hopefully, to catch up with the demand.

Births averted

New Delhi (IBS) — The number of births averted in the decade and a half 1966 to 1980, is 331.91 thousand in comparison to just 59.89 thousand in the 10 year span 1956-66.

Since the inception of the family planning program, a total of 313.14 thousand cases of sterilization and 81.36 cases of 'loop' insertions were done till March 1980. Some three point five million people were using other methods of contraceptive.

There has been tremendous expenditure on family welfare programmes that has gone up from 1.25 million dollars to 10.75 million dollars in the decade. Family welfare programmes are being pursued as a wholly voluntary scheme, and forms an integral part of a comprehensive policy covering health, maternity and child care and education.

Kashmir report

Srinagar, Sept. 7 (UNI) — The Sikri Commission, which was appointed in June 1979 in the wake of a widespread militant agitation in the Jammu region against imbalances has submitted its report to Jammu and Kashir Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah. The report, which runs into 271 pages, will be placed in the state legislature which meets here on September 29.

The inquiry commisslon headed by Justice S.M. Sikri, during the course of its deliberations, visited 37 places in all the 14 districts, including Poonch, Doda, Kargil and Leh. It also received evidence from individuals including Sheikh Abdullah, and collected information its own.

The commission was appointed when students of Poonch launched a militant agitation against the "unjust" recruitment policy of the state Government. Later, when the agitation developed into an armed clash between the students and security personnel in Poonch, almost all parts of Jammu province were engulfed in the agitation. Seven people were killed in police firing and property worth lakhs was destroyed.

More oil produced

New Delhi, (UNI) - India's Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) proposes to produce six million tonnes of crude during 1980-81 from its oilfields in Assam and Gujarat against a production of 5.10 million tonnes in the previous year.

Production of oil from Ankleshwar is proposed to be stepped down from 2.4 million tonnes to 2 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to conserve valuable oil. At the same time the production from north Gujarat is planned to be increased from 1.3 to 1.7 MTPA during 1980-81 to meet the existing commitments.

In the eastern region production is being stepped up from 1.9 to 2.3 MTPA. In addition to other regular customers, it is proposed to supply gas to the Assam State Electricity Board and the Nagaland Paper Corporation during the current year, according to the annual report of the Petroleum Ministry for 1979-80.

During the current year ONGC proposes to drill 215,900 metres in onshore areas using 34 rigs as compared with a target of 187,272 metres in the previous year.

Some of the important exploratory wells planned to be taken up for drilling during 1980, 81 include Napamua, Naojan, Kasimargaon and Nahorhabi in the eastern region, Rokhia in Tripura, Jaguli in West Bengal, Razol in Andhra Pradesh, Gamaj, Oganij, Assamli, Plaiyad, Laxmanpura and Unava in the Wesxtern Region.

In the offshore operations ONGC plans to drill a meterage of 87,200 during 1980-81 as compared with revised target of 64,800 metres in the previous year.

Important exploratory wells planned in offshore areas include Godavari, Kutch, Andaman, Tapti High and Kasargode.

The oil production from the Bombay High offshore field will be stepped up from 4.42 million tonnes during 1979-80 to 5.62 million tonnes during 1980-81.

Referring to the increasing price of oil the report said the additional burden to foreign exchange for the year 1980 is estimated at around Rs 18,000 million. Various proposals are under consideration for meeting this burden.

In 1979-80, million tonnes of crude oil valued at Rs 21,950 million was imported. In addition, a quantity of about 4.5 million tonnes of certain deficit petroleum products like naphtha, furnace oil, high speed deisel, kerosene base oils and some finished lubricants valued at about Rs 10,000 million were imported.

For the year 1980, most of the country's requirements for import of crude oil have been obtained in recent years are Iran, UAE, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, USSR and Nigeria.

Possibilities are also being explored for imports from new sources such as Venezuela, Mexico and Algeria.

Car output falls

Bombay, Sept 7 (UNI) — The production and sales of cars, three wheelers and scooters in India came down during 1979 as a result of labour trouble, power shortage and irregular supply of automobile components.

According to a survey conducted by the Safety First Association of India, car sales came down to 28,950 last year (1979) from 34,017 in 1978 and production declined from 34,366 to 29,233. The rise in fuel prices was a primary factor responsible for the drop in the demand or cars, and thus, the sales, it said.

There was a significant fall in car sales in some States. In Kerala, for instance, sales were 1,339 in 1979 compared to 1,884 in 1978 and 2,310 in 1977.

The survey report revealed that almost all States recorded a fall in the sale of automobiles. West Bengal, which recorded a maximum sale of 5,952 cars in 1976, registered sale of 2,960 cars in 1979.

Likewise, in the States of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, sales fell considerably during the period 1978-79.

The production and sales of three wheelers registered a proportionate fall during this period.

The production and sales of commercial vehicles and tractors, however, showed an increasing trend. While, 60,099 commercial vehicles were sold in 1979 compared to the sale of 50,887 during 1978: 57,902 tractors were sold last year compared to the 1976 figure of 53,136, the survey said.

Industrialists invited

Madras, Sept. 5 (UNI) — Kerala, India's southernmost State now ruled by a Marxist-led United Front, is making a bid to woo industrialists from neighbouring Tamil Nadu, also a State ruled by a non-Congress(I) alliance which includes the two wings of the Indian Communist Party.

The Kerala Chief Minster, E.K. Nayanar, has said the left Democractic Front had no reservations about welcoming industries in the private and joint sectors to start new ventures in the state. Mr. Nayanar made this statement at a recent meeting with some 70 industrialists of Tamil Nadu here. His colleagues, Industry Minister P.C. Chacko and Electricity Minister R. Balakrishnan Pillai were with him during his discussions with the industrialists.

The Chief Minister said he would have similar talks with industrialists in Bombay, Delhi and other metropolitan cities.

Mr. Nayanar said the Kerala Government would offer a package of incentives to industrialists. Of these, the most important would be guaranteed supply of electric power throughout the year.

Warning against MISA

New Delhi (IBS) - Atal Behari Vajpayee, President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, warned the Government against the reimposition of the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, at a press conference in Bhubaneswar.

Vajpayee referred to reported statements by the Maharshtra Chief Minister A.R. Antuley, that MISA might be enforced and said that this must have come as a shock to those who had put their faith in Mrs. Gandhi and her election pledge that "emergency would not be imposed for 1,000 years."

Detention without trial struck at the very roots of democratic governance based on individual liberty, he said.

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THE CONSTITUTION

Canadian politicians are currently busy trying to produce a Canada-made constitution. The Prime Minister and the provincial premiers have just recently concluded their much publicised deliberations on the Constitution.

The current and future citizens of this country have a great stake in this effort. The new Canadian constitution should reflect the current Canadian realities and should be able to accommodate the aspirations of generations of Canadians of all races, colours and cultures yet to be born. In order to enable the Canadian politicians to do an efficient job the people of Canada, which includes of course the people of Indian origin here, should be able to convey their feelings to their political representatives.

Issues such as minority rights, human rights and other similar issues are areas that might interest some of our people. The concept of multiculturalism should form a cornerstone of the constitution. We who came from India, the most multicultural of all countries in the world today, know very well how a constitution can ensure that the minorities are properly treated. The stage of development reached by any society will be seen from the way its minorities are treated. However, the minorities themselves will have to do their share of the work involved.

We urge the people of Indian origin in Canada to contribute their fair share in this worthy effort.

Search for oil

New Delhi, Sept 7 — India is making every effort to augment crude oil supplies not only by exploring new areas of production within the country, but by seeking imports from new external sources.

At present imports of crude oil are from Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates, USSR and Nigeria. But since the requirements for the current year from these sources have already been tied up, it has become necessary to explore possibilities of import from countries such as Venezuela, Mexico and Algeria.

The augment internal production of crude, the public sector undertaking, Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has plans to extend operations in its oilfields in Assam and Gujarat. The target is six million tonnes in 1980-81 against 5.3 million tonnes in the previous year. The oil production from the Bombay High offshore field will be stepped up from 4.42 million tonnes during 1979-80 to 5.62 million tonnes during 1980-81.

During the current year ONGC plans to drill to depths of 215,000 metres in onshore areas, using 34 rigs. Last year the maximum depth of drilling was 187,272 metres, according to an official report. In off-shore areas, drilling this year would be down to 87,200 metres against 64,800 metres last year.

The official report says that important exploratory wells are planned in offshore areas such as Godavari in Andhra Pradesh, Kutch in Gujarat, Kasargode in Kerala and the Andamans in the Bay of Bengal.

With the increasing price of oil, the additional burden on the country's foreign exchange resources during 1980 is estimated to Rs. 18,000 million.

The brinjal bomb

New Delhi (IBS) - There was near panic at the Indraprastha depot of the Delhi Transport Corporation on Monday, when a bus driver arrived at the terminal and announced that there was a bomb in the vehicle he was driving.

The driver, who was commandering the vehicle from Ghaziabad to Delhi stated that a passenger had noticed a bomb lying under a seat. The driver had then driven the vehicle straight to the terminal and ordered all the passengers to dismount.

The DTC staff went into action quickly cordoning off the area around the vehicle, and the SOS went out to the police headquarters. Within minutes the bomb demolition squad arrived, even while several hundred office goers gathered around to watch the situation develop.

Religion in tomorrow's Canada

by Shiv Chopra

Religion is the nectar of a human organization. It is the sole distinctive factor that separates humans from animals. Without religion there would be no civilization as we know it. Without it, we would have lacked the collective will to combat against the unpleasant ills of living. It is only because of religious teachings that societies have developed and adopted codes and commandments for a proper moral and ethical behaviour which ensures a cohesive and peaceful living. In a nutshell, religion is the life and blood of human civilizations.

Nevertheless, history is replete with examples which show that this very blood that nurtures the moral fabric of human society has the propensity of transforming into a most heinous poison which can bring out the worst form of immoral behaviour in human beings. Such are the forces of thought and practice of religion which if channeled properly can bring about peace and harmony but if misdirected can produce wrath and destruction.

Canada is a land which has always prided itself in espousing the principles of freedom of thought and tolerance for the ways and beliefs of all its inhabitants. It espouses these principles not because of its peculiar large heartedness but it does so because of the historical nature of its human content. Canada's population is made up of multicultural stocks from all the way back to the Indians of Christopher Columbus whose out-of-Canada origins are a subject of mere conjecture and speculation to the relatively more recently arrived Indians from India who may claim their origins to the very creation of civilized humanity. Between these two types of Indians in Canada there exist peoples who represent virtually every race, religion and nationality on earth. Arriving one after the other, we have amassed ourselves into a nation in this land of opportunity.

Canada is a land of opportunity not only for its material benefits but more importantly for its environment of spiritual freedom. With welcoming arms it provides freedom of belief to all creeds, be they Catholics or Puritans; Mormons or Menonites; Zionists or Shiites. It has always offered its fold to all those who sought escpae from political and religious persecution elsewhere. Therein lies the greatness of this "Glorious and Free" land that every Canadian has adopted as his or her motherland in the course of its history.

Duringthelast few years certain international events which were quite outside the control of Canada, have tended to produce a degree of stress on the inherent principles of freedom on which this nation is built. The wars in Indochina, the youth rebellion against excessive materialism and accelerated population movements around the world elicited a considerable anxiety and nervousness among the Canadian population.

In response to that nervous reaction certain highly vocal interest groups and religious zealots have been quick in taking advantage of the opportunity to promote certain patent solutions. All on a sudden, slogans such as "A Need for Religious Revival" or "Return to Fundamentalism" are being increasingly bombasted for promoting their own favourite brands of religion. At the same time, overt and covert attempts are being made to exclude or suppress the others. This upsurge of activity appears to be supported by vast sums of money and organization. So much so that certain fanatic elements and avowed racists who appeared to be more or less finished and forgotten as a thing of the past are once again being resurrected. Archaic laws such as the Ontario Education Act of 1890 are being reincarnated which dictates that each teacher in the public school system shall inculcate morals and values derived from the Protestant Christian faith.

These trends are against the basic tenets of multiculturalism that Canada has always stood for. The Education Acts from the previous century in Ontario and other Provinces of Canada, may have been necessary when multiculturalism in Canada demanded protection for the rights of non-Cathodic Christian populations. Such laws in today's Canada, when large chunks of the Canadian population are neither Catholic nor Protestant, do not provide the same protection to all its citizens that fair and just laws must do. A change must be demanded that guarantees religious freedom not only to all denominations within the Christian religion but also to all other religious groups, equally and equitably. To deny them that right is not only unfair but it is highly insulting to their own religious beliefs and heritage. After all, the moral and ethnical codes from all religions offer the same fundamental teaching i.e., to be Good. Let us therefore, work toward that common goal to be good for the good of ourselves, for the good of our children and for the good of Canada. Let there be freedom to choose one's own beliefs, be they in the Courts or in the schools. That way, we would not be returning to fundamentalism but in fact we will continue to remain in it for all time to come. That is what we must expect of a "Glorious and Free" Canada.

Per capita income among the lowest

New Delhi, Sept. 7 (UNI) — India's per capita income is among the lowest recorded by the World Bank in its World Development Report.

The report, recently published shows, India's per capita in 1978 as 180 dollars, placing it 110th among 125 countries.

Kuwait with a per capita income of $14,890 topped the list followed far behind by Switzerland with $12,100 and Sweden with $10,210.

While the per capita was less than $360 in 38 countries, in 61 others it was in the range of $390 to 3,500.

In 21 countries, per capita was in the 3,600-10,000 range. Data regarding two countries are unavailable.

The average annual inflation during 1970-78 was the highest at 22.2 per cent for the five capital surplus oil exporters. It was double digit for the low income countries at 10.6 per cent, and middle income countries at 13.1 per cent. It was 9.4 per cent for the industrialized countries. Figure for countries with centrally planned economics was not available.

The average annual growth rate of imports by capital surplus oil exporters showed an increase during 1978 as compared to 1960. The growth rate of imports of low income countries, middle income countries and industrialized countries registered declines during this period.

Merchandise exports, by eight capital surplus oil exporter s(Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and UAE) during this period to developing countries rose from 21 to 29 percent of their total exports while it declined from 78 to 70 percent to industrialized countries, and from one to less than half a per cent to countries with centrally planned economies.

Exports from low income countries to idnustrialized countries was up by one per cent at 66 while it declined by four percent to developing countries to 23 percent and by two per cent to five percent to countries with centrally planned economies and rose from one to six percent to capital surplus oil exporters.

The exports from middle income countries to industrialized countries declined from 70 to 67 percent, remained unchanged at five per cent to countries with centrally planned economies rose by one per cent to 25 to developing countries and trebled to three per cent to capital surplus oil exporters.

Among industrialized countries the export remained unchanged at 67 percent, while it was treble at six percent to capital surplus oil exporters. It declined from 28 to 23 percent to developing countries but rose from three to four per cent to countries with centrally planned economies.

An analysis of the structure of merchandise exports shows that fuels, minerals and metals accounted for 37 percent of the exports from low income countries during 1977 (against 13 per cent in 1960), 33 percent of middle income countries (against 25 percent), 9 percent of industrialised countries (against 11 per cent), 99 per cent of capital surplus oil exporters (against 95 per cent) and 24 per cent from countries with centrally planned economies (the figures for 1960 are unavailable).

Textiles and clothing accounted for seven per cent of the exports from low income countries from 12 per cnt, 10 per cent of industrialized countries (against four per cent), five per cent of industrialized countries against seven per cent, stood at 16 per cent of countries with centrally planned economies.

Machinery and other transport equipment accounted for two percent of the exports of low income countries against negligible, nine per cent of middle income countries against two per cent, 39 percent of industrialised countries against 30 percent stood at 31 percent of countries with centrally planned economies.

Other manufacturers accounted for 10 percent of the exports from low income countries against five per cent previously, 18 percent of middle income countries against eight per cent, 32 per cent of industrialized countries against 29 percent, one per cent of capital surplus oil exporters unchanged, and stood at 25 per cent of countries with centrally planned economies.

Reforms in cinema

New Delhi, Sept. 5 (UNI) — The working group on National Film Policy has in its report suggested that cinema as a whole should be recognized as an industry and brought under the joint control of the Union and the State Governments.

The Sikh

From Ethnic Enclosure to a Dynamic Warrior-Saintbood

by Dr. Gurbachan S. Paul

Three basic concepts underlie the Sikh faith:

1. Self discipline; 2. Inner World activism; 3. Communal responsibility.

The guiding image consciously or subconsciously engrained in us is that of a warrior-saint. The built-in dichotomy in this creates a complexity that the western mind finds difficult, if not impossible to comprehend. But that is the archetypal image of Sikhism.

The Sikh's contribution may be defined in terms of three stages of immigration to Canada.

1. The Struggle for existence stage; 2. The participation Stage; 3. The Establishment Stage.

1. The Struggle for Existence Stage started with the first influex and early settlement of Sikhs in British Columbia. To summarize events comprising this stage, Sikh immigration to Canada was first recorded in 1904 and increased steadily until 1908 and then dropped off when restrictive legislation was passed in India and Canada. In 1908-1909, the British Government proposed the removal of East Indians to British Hondarus, a move that was investigated and rejected by the leaders of the Sikh community. In 1908 the "continuous voyage legislation" was passed which stipulated that persons would immigrate to Canada only if they secured continous passage from their homelands. Since no ships made direct passage from Indian ports to Canada, that was not legal exclusion but had the political effect of excluding persons from India, and those entering after this date did so by virtue of the fact that they were already outside India, working in port cities where they could obtain direct passage. British Columbia Sikhs attempted to test the validity of the law in 1914 by providing funds to charter the ship Komagata Maru to bring them to Vancouver. Turning of the ship by gunboats from Vancouver harbour and the violence and bloodshed it evoked in the community following the incident have never been forgotten. Mewa Singh, the man who assasinated the Government's spokesman and investigator of the Komagata Maru affair, is given a martyr's memorial every year at the Vancouver Sikh Temple.

A trickle of immigrants began again following the first World War but there were only an estimated 1,110 in British Columbia in 1939. It was not until 1951 that Indians were granted a quota permitting the entry of 150 persons a year, plus close relatives such as parents, minor children and fiances. The quota was increased to 300 in 1957.

Sikhs in British Columbia took the initiative in all the struggles for fair and equitable treatment, including the franchise (granted in 1947), freedom to enter professions without restrictions, freedom from finger printing upon the purchase of property, and equal rights to purchase property on fireshore land. But all this struggle did not bear fruit until much later. The first stage was an uphill battle beset with frustrations, fear, and anger which erupted in "isolated incidents" from time to time. During this stage, Sikhs were employed largely in railway construction, logging, lumbering, dairy and fruit farming and small retail businesses. But the overtly racist attitude of the White Canadians forced us to retreat into our ethnic enclosures. The

The Sikhs in Canada

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2. The second, or what I referred to as "Participation Stage" was a period of reawakening, when we realized our part in the larger social fabric. It was the "coming of age" of a community. The steady influx of better educated and highly skilled Sikhs resulted in a slight upward mobility towards a professional employment status. With professionalism came job diversification and geograhical diversification several thousand teachers, medical doctors, engineers, etc. were scattered throughout Canada.

Economically, this was a period of relative ease for the average Sikh. But socially and culturally, we remained steeped in our traditions. Our religious institutions, the gurdwaras, remain the pivot of our lives. In familiar surroundings, we formed the comfort that was absent in our work-a-day life. Unlike other near or far eastern immigrants, we clung to many physical and attitudinal manifestations of our background.

Towards the end of this stage, Sikhs have managed to permeate into the managerial, professional and technical fields. Many of our skilled workers entered fields such as carpentry, welding, garment industry, etc. We helped revive the fruit picking industry in British Columbia.

It is more difficult to measure the sociocultural impact of the Sikh because social scientists have only recently started to analyze the size and demographic characteristic of the Indian community in Canada, and we have not moved far enough into other areas of enquiry. Our socio-cultural contributions can be placed in two broad categories. First, we have provided alternative ways of thinking to the West i.e. by our very presence and determined adherence to the philosophical underpinning of our faith. We epitomize the "other way". This may from time to time, generate religious cults and fads among the larger society, but more importantly, it forces them to think, question and thereby revitalize what has the potential of becoming a stereotype society moving rapidly towards self-destruction. Secondly, by showing the lowest proportionate crime rate and highest employment statistics, we have proven the viability of our socio-cultural institutions. It is remarkable that in spite of being immigrants and facing tremedous problems of readjustment to a new country, Indian socio-cultural heritage and religious structures have been effective in countering conflicts of assimiliation and integration into a new society.

3. And now we have entered the third stage which I referred to earlier as the Establishment Stage. At this juncture we can be led in either direction. It is a crossroad where I ask myself "what am I" and "what is my direction?" I cannot afford the philosophical musings of a Hamlet "to be or not to be" because the question is one of survival and one cannot indulge in the luxury of indecision.

It is a fact that we are once again building or embellishing our religious institutions, our temples, our gurdwaras. But do the answers lie in building structures wherein we can conceal ourselves from the harsh reality of the world outside? Perhaps for some of us that is the answer, and I say it with deep human sympathy and understanding. We all realize that the more we retreat within ourselves the more we assimilate into their melting pot, the greater our kinsaip with the very same society. But the kinship does not easily extend to socio-cultural acceptance or a place among the highest echelons of society. The road that lies before us is clearly divided, and none of the two paths lead to Utopia. Perhaps one can take comfort in the fact that life is rarely simplistic, especially not for you and I who have made the metaphoric leap into the new world.

We can no longer make compromises by adapting a bit of the new, retaining a bit of the old, whichever aspects of both fit in with our daily scheme of things. I say no longer make compromises because I believe time has come for an honest encounter with oneself. To ask "what am I and what is my mission!" .... "Am I here to accumulate physical comforts for myself, live upon the fringes of society and die in relative obscurity, or do I have a driving force within me which compels me to look beyond my immediate horizons?"

When I ask myself the above questions, I feel the strength that comes from honesty and dedication to a cause. To me, that honesty is one of the important tenets of Sikhism.... back to the image of the warrior-saint, one who is ready to offer the supreme sacrifice for his beliefs. Striped to its barebone, religion is a very compelling force, and I believe we have to re-examine Sikhism shorn of its sociocultural trappings. Once we have the strength to recognize the real through the multi-coloured facade, we will discover the oneness of all religions. As epitomised by their gurus, prophets, and saviours, all religions are grounded in humanism. "Love thy fellow creature", "Love thy neighbour", "Love thy fellow man." World literature abounds with stories, poems, epics on this very same subject.

And I believe that by understanding the basic similarity of the philosophical premise upon which our respective religions are founded, we will find our peace. Then we will not need to retreat within the elaborate temples we have built partly to penetrate our insularity and sense of insecurity. Because of our slavish adherence to the ritualistic trappings of religion, which are mostly there for their mass appeal, we make a spectacle of ourselves before the larger society. And I believe that we cannot continue to indulge in the same ritual that we practised five hundred years ago and expect to be understood or left alone by the larger Canadian society. Sikhism has to continue to evolve and to remain a dynamic religion. It must change to become harmonious with its cultural milieu. We should stop treating religion as a security blanket, and bring it out as a deeply philosopihcal faith, a great world religion that is rooted in the same humanism as all other great religions of the world.

COACHING CAMPS FOR SWIMMERS

Trivandrum, Sept. 12 (UNI) - The Swimming Federation of India (SFI) has decided to organise three coaching camps - two in the North and one in the South - to train and pick out best swimmers for the 1982 Asian Games.

P. Ramdev, honorary secretary of SFI, who is here in connection with the seventh National Age-Group Aquatics Championships, said the camps would start after October.

The selection of the probables would be based on the performances at the next senior National Aquatics Championships scheduled to be held at Lucknow from October 8, he said.

Arabs in Kerala

New Delhi (UNI) - The composite and cosmopolitan culture of Kerala, India's southernmost State, owes not a little too early foreign contacts, originally for the purpose of trade and commerce.

The Arabs were among the earliest to establish such contacts. But unlike the Portuguese, the French and the British, who implanted their respective flags of political power in the land where they had been welcomed as friendly traders, the Arabs have, through the long centuries, remained friends of India. And in this ancient land of peace, the Arabs introduced the faith of Islam, which has flourished as one of the main religions practised in the country.

The fame of Kerala as the land of spices brought foreign people and cultures to her shores, even from the 3rd millennium B.C., if not earlier. The Egyptian Queen Hatsheput sent an expedition of five ships down the Red Sea to obtain spices from Kerala. The ancient Egyptians used spices from Kerala to make perfumes. They also used Kerala spices to preserve the bodies of their Kings by mummification.

Both ginger and cinnamon were available plenty in Kerala. Even in the Old Testament there are numerous references to cinnamon and cardamom, spices indigenous to Kerala. It is referred to in the Bible that cinnamon was one of the ingredients of the holy annointing oils and perfumes used in the ritual of Tabernacle, erected by Moses in 1409 B.C. The Holy Testament describes the visit of Queen Sheba to King Solomon" with a very great train of camels that bore spices".

Besides the Arabs, the Phoenicians who were also skilled navigators, were prominent in the spice trade. King Solomon's ships were manned by them and they had come "to Ophir and fetched from thence gold". Ophir has been identified by some scholars with Puvar in Trivandrum District or with Beypore in Kozhikode District.

The Greeks and Romans came later. Dioscorides (40-90 A.d), the Greek physician and contemporary of Pliny, mentions in his Materia Medica, spices like ginger, turmeric and pepper as possessing medical virtues. Pliny estimated that the Roman Empire spent nearly a hundred million sesterces (about 1,087,500 pounds) in India, China and Arabia for the purchase of luxuries. The demand for oriental spices, particularly pepper, steadily increased among the Romans.

There is philological evidence to prove Greek commercial contacts with Kerala. "Inchi' was perhaps the origin of the Greek word "zingiber" meaning ginger. Similarly the Greek word 'cryzi' (rice) is probably derived from the Malayalam word 'ari'. The Arab monopoly in the field of spice trade broke up in the middle of the 1st century B.C. with the Roman conquest of Egypt. The discovery of Hippalus in 45 A.D. of the existing monsoon winds regularly blowing across the Indian Ocean gave further impetus to trade between Kerala and the West, and the voyage along the coastline thereafter resulted in oceanic voyage direct to Muziris (old name for Craganore or Kodungallur in central Kerala).

Pepper, which formed the bulk of the West-bound cargo from Kerala, was valued by Romans as highly as gold and silver. Sanskrit writers gave it the name yavana priya (dear to the Romans). Imported spices were scrutinised and taxed at the Roman Customs house in Alexandria. With effect from the 3rd century B.C. during the infamous military anarchy in Rome, even though direct trade between Kerala and Rome declined, spices continued to have a good market. In 330 A.D., when Constantinople was made the Capital of the Roman empire, it developed into a trade-centre for oriental spices. Early in the 5th century A.D. when Alaric, King of the Goths, besieged Rome, part of the ransom demanded for sparing the imperial city from destruction was 3,000 pounds of black pepper.

Even in the early centuries of the Christian era, or even before the Chinese also entered the field of pepper trade their trade contacts continued for a much longer period than those of the Romans. It is believed that the Chinese had established a colony in Kerala. A Chinese coin of the 1st Century B.C. was found in Chandravalli, which establishes Chinese Trade contacts with South India before the Christian era.

Of the ancient sea-ports Muziris (present Cranganore) was considered to be the most important. Tyndis, Barace and Nelcynda were the other famous sea-ports. Muziris is referred to as Mauracchispattanam in Valmiki Ramayana, and as Muchiri in early Tamil works. It was called Makotai, Mahodayapuram and Mahodayapattanam during the time of second Chera Empire (800-1102 A.D.). This sea-port was the gate of ancient India. Christian, Jewish and Muslim voyagers, who have enriched the cultural heritage of India, landed here. It served as an emporium of trade for the Phoenicians, the Egyptians, the Greeks and the Romans in turn. The phenomenal prosperity of Muziris is referred to by classical geographers and Tamil poets. Pliny says that foreign ships used to be anchored at a distance from the port and the cargo was transported by 'vallams' (meaning boats in Malayalam). Ptolemy also refers to Muziris as a great emporium.

By the time of Marco Polo, Chinese trade had declined due to Arab competition, but still their ships visited Quilon. The Muslim traveller Ibn Batuta wrote that in his time Chinese had still Quilon as their chief resort. Calicut or Kozhikode was the headquarters of the Zamorin, famous for their hospitality towards foreign traders, who very often misused it. By 1498, when Vasco da Gama landed there, Calicut had developed into one of the major ports of India. The last and the most important to come up, however, was Cochin, which later became the biggest port in India, when, due to floods, Cranganore got silted. Cochin was a flourishing centre of trade in pepper and spices when Ma Huan visited India (1409 A.D) and Nicoli Conti (1440 A.D). During this time the Chinese and the Arabs carried on brisk trade at the port. With the coming of the Portuguese towards the end of the 15th century A.D., Cochin developed further and Kerala's fight with Western Powers centered round this port.

These early foreign contacts were what probably turned Kerala into a museum of races and cultures. The 'foreign' religions (i.e. 'those apart from the native ones. Jainism, Buddhism and Christianity) were introduced early to Kerala. It is believed that St. Thomas landed at Malankara, a place adjoining Muziris, in 52 A.D. Similarly Jews are supposed to have come in 63 A.D. and Arab traders introduced Islam some time in the 7th or 8th Century A.D.

There are many Arabic, Persian, Greek and Latin words in Malayalam, the language spoken in Kerala and vice versa. Religion might have also played a great part in attracting the people of Kerala to foreign countries, owing to the fraternal feeling existing among followers of the same religion, and this might have helped the outflow of Keralites to foreign countries.

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FILMS

QURBANI
Produced, directed and edited by Feroz Khan

AS an actor Feroz Khan is not a great shake. He started out as a stunt actor, appearing in action movies with Dara Singh, Mumtaz and others. Yet not many socials came his way. So he decided, ambitious as he is, to become a producer-director. He took to making films with a vengeance.

Apradh was his first directorial venture, with Mumtaz as its leading lady. Mumtaz exhibited her "perfect anatomy" in many bikini-clad scenes in the film. The special thing about Apradh was that it had a long sequence of auto-races, shot in West Germany, with the help of professionals, technicians and auto-racers. It was the first time it was happening on the Indian screen, and it is creditable to Feroz Khan that the auto-race sequences were technically comparable to those of The Grand Prix, which was entirely about auto-races and auto-drivers. Apradh did not, however, make much of a splash at the box-office.

Ambitious Feroz Khan decided to make his own Indian version of Thegodfather when, in the early seventies, it had become a craze in international cinema. Dharmatama's plotline on Godfather. As the first Indian feature film shot partly in Afghanistan, Dharmatama had a hoary landscape, mountainscape, pastures — awe-inspiring and enchanting. The film was important not only for its technical qualities, but also for its study of the Indian under world. Premnath's Dharmatama, the godfather of the underworld, was perhaps the best role of his career. The film had an eight-minute sequence of Buzkashi, an Afghan national sport in which horseriders fight to possess a goat's carcass, which was one of the highpoints of Dharmatama.

Dharmatama had perhaps the longest rape scene in an Indian movie, but it was scissored by the Censor to just a few shots. Feroz Khan was reportedly disappointed with the slashing down of the rape scene. Qurbani was also in trouble with the Censor, for its violence and eroticism, but Feroz Khan had learnt his lesson and perhaps knew how to pull the strings.

Qurbani is not on the same ambitious scale as Dharmatama, yet it is a big-budget, high-gloss, multi-starrer, with the finale (sadistic violent shootouts, auto chases, and attempted killings) shot in the suburbs of London. The speciality of Qurbani is its music, especially the first disco song — To Baat Ban Jaye-ae — sung by Nazia Hasan, a Pakistani lady settled in London. Its disco tune, moulded by Buddo, who is not given credit in the publicity material, picturized on sultry siren Zeenat Aman caught the imagination of the younger generation and became a craze with them much before the film's release. Another disco number — Leila-Mc-Leila — sung by Kanchan and Amit Kumar (Kishore Kumar's son) is equally tuneful, again picturized on Zeenat Aman, who acts as a disco crooner. If the songs are catchy, their picturization on Zeenat Aman is erotic and their audio-visual impact exciting. A qawali-like nazm, sung by Kishore Kumar and others, is obviously inspired by Zanjeer's qawali. The late Mohd Rafi had also sung a duet with Asha Bhonsle, but not to much consequence. Reportedly the sale of Qurbani disc has crossed the one-million mark, part of it before the release of Qurbani.

Qurbani's one-line plot is not different from that of Sholay: friendship and spirit of sacrifice between two desperados, played by Feroz Khan himself and the he-man of Hindi screen, Vinod Khanna. Acting-wise, the thunder is stolen by Amjad Khan in a role much different from his pet screen image — a vicious

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On the distaff side, it is Zeenat Aman who is the Zeenat of Qurbani. On a perfectly proportioned body, she sports revealing costumes, some of them Heera-Panna style and in the style of Hare Ram Hare Krishna. The camera is trained on the derriere of Zeenat Aman in the disco numbers, to give the visuals erotic touch. The 'Dum Maro Dum' girl has become to 'To Baat Ban Jaye-ae' and 'Leila-Me-Leila' damsel. She may not have revealed herself in Qurbani as much as she did in Satyam Shivam Sundram, but whatever it is, is no less sensational. Her enactment of the disco numbers is inviting. Aruna Irani as the mod princess looks middle-aged whose lined face shows her age.

Technically, Qurbani is first rate, otherwise it is a classy trash. Kamal Bose, the cinematographer, may not have excelled his work in Dharmatama, but he has done it with a professional expertise. Kalyanji-Anandji's background music is not so loud. However, the volume of some of the songs is so loud, in the auditorium, that one can hardly understand the bols.

(Darshak in Democratic World)

SAU DIN SAAS KE
Directed by Vijay Sadanah
Produced by Chander Sadanah

THE evil system of dowry and its victims the brides, who, in many cases, not able to withstand the demands of their in-laws, take their own lives, is much in the news. Recently a number of cases were reported and conscientious women in the capital demonstrated against the evils of dowry system. Many socially-conscious film-makers took up the evils of dowry system as part of their films' thematic concern. The first one to our knowledge was V Shantaram. In 1950 he came out with a powerful exposure of the dowry system with his film, appropriately entitled, Dahej. It had Jayshree (Shantaram's first wife) and Karan Dewan in the lead. Lalita Pawar acted as the evil genius — the pestering mother-in-law, a role with which Lalita Pawar's screen image came to be associated.

In Sau Din Saas Ke Lalita Pawar plays a more or less similar role. She is so powerful and fearful that even her sons dare not put a stop to the humiliations and insults she heaps on her daughter-in-law. However, she is all sugar and candy to her daughter and son-in-law, who have their eyes on her wealth and fabricate ugly situations to create scenes between the daughter-in-law and mother-in-law. The arrival of the second daughter-in-law in the household complicates the situation. She poses a threat to the wily couple, who over-react to situations and expose themselves. Now, it does not take long for the mother-in-law to understand the truth. The son-in-law is pardoned, after he is unmasked, and the couples live happily ever-after.

(Democratic World)

JYOTI BANE JWALA
Story, screenplay and direction by Dasari Narayana Rao
Produced by Prasan Kapoor

EVERY producer has a certain motive in making a film. In this case, Prasan Kapoor has a twin motive: to make a viable box-office film and to tailor the male lead role to fit his brother-in-law Jeetendra, who aspires to reach the top. Jeetendra's is the principal character around whom the film revolves. For that matter Jyoti Bane Jwala, like majority of films is a hero-oriented film. Thickness of plot makes it run into nineteen reels. However, the box-office ingredients are so interestingly presented that one does not feel bored, except in two or three scenes which are unnecessarily elongated.

Prasan Kapoor has made many films with Jeetendra as the principal character but Jyoti Bane Jwala is the best of them all — in its characterization, in its myriad shades and in its role-playing. It is a modern version of the Mahabharata conundrum — Karan-Kunti-Arjun. Jyoti is an illegitimate newborn whose father died before he could marry Malti. Malti's father, without her knowledge, throws the babe into a dustbin wherefrom it is picked up by a wealthy man. Jyoti is derided by his playmates and others as a dustbin kid which he resents. Public ridicule enrages Jyoti to turn into the rebel Jwala (from a flame to a volcano). As a rebel, Jyoti does all-sorts of anti-social acts. Nothing is sacred to him when it comes to making money. He acts as "a crash-and-crush man" for his boss who did his best to destroy Jyoti-turned-Jwala's family. On this revelation, Jwala now vows to revenge the wrong-doer.

Subplots and side-plots are many. It goes to the credit of Desari Narayana Rao that he has written a compact though complex screenplay. His style of direction is so smooth that one does not notice it at all. Raj Baldev Raj, the dialogue writer revels in mixing the natural and the imaginative. Cinematographer M. Kannapa, a new name in Hindi cinema, is a master craftsman. Mastery of his technique is evident in almost every frame. Music by Laxmikant-Pyarelal and dialogues by Raj Baldev Raj deserve praise.

Coming to the cast, Jeetendra is determined to change his image of the Jumping Jack. It started, to our knowledge, with Parichay (an adaptation of Sound of Music) wherein he played a tutor. In Jyoti Bane Jwala his is an anti-hero role — so much fancied by the Indian stars these days. Anti-hero roles were a craze in the West at one time. The trend has now started in India. Rajesh Khanna did two anti-hero roles quite recently — in Amnar Deep and Red Rose. Both Jeetendra and Rajesh Khanna think that if Amitabh Bachchan could be on top as an angry young man, why not they. But one wonders if both of them will have anti-hero roles written especially for them as writers do for Amitabh. Critical acclaim is what they yearn for instead of huge fan following as romantic loverboys.

This is perhaps the second time Waheeda Rehman is playing mother. First time it was in Rajinder Singh Bedi's Phaguan. Her face as usual can express emotions in all their nuances.

Among Moushumi and Sarika, it is the latter who wins hands down so far as playing playful, prankish girls are concerned. Together they are female counterpart of Ashok Kumar-Pran-team, in Victoria No. 203, who roamed about the streets singing and dancing, teasing passers-by. Hema Malini played a pickpocket, a few years ago, but Jyoti Bane Jwala is the first film wherein two girls, both heroines, are pocket-mars and do the job with relish and zest. Looks like some pick-pocketing scenes have been scissored by the Censor, in order not to give ideas to would-be pocket-mars in real life. For the first time, to our memory, many character artists came together in the film—Ashok Kumar, Sanjeev Kumar, Dr. Shreeram Lagoo, Satyen Kapoo, Iftikhar, Jairaj and Om Shivpuri.

Jyoti Bane Jwala is meant to be an entertainer, it has no other pretension. Its success is bound to boost up the image of Jeetendra. Dasari Narayana Rao is an accomplished talent. One would like to see more of him on the screen, I mean, behind the camera.

American movie banned

New Delhi (IBS) — The Government has reportedly banned the American-made thriller "Ashanti" as being anti-Arab, and prevented its screening in all Indian theatres.

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has opheld the verdict of the Central Board of Film Censors refusing the film a certificate.

Starring Omar Sharief, Michael Caine, William Holden, Rex Harrison and Kabir Bedi, the film talks about slave trading.

"Ashanti" is the second film to run into trouble recently. The first film, "Death of a Princess", was the first movie to fall foul with the Government. Explicit sexuality, homosexual scenes and the slave trade and brutality have been given as reasons for banning the film in India.

Kishore Sahu dead

New Delhi (IBS) — Well known film producer, director and actor Kishore Sahu died at Bangkok airport following a severe heart attack. He was 65.

Sahu, who is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters, was accompanied by his wife Priti Sahu when he suffered the stroke, while boarding a flight for Hong Kong enroute to California where he was scheduled to visit with one of his daughters.

Born on October 22, 1915, in an aristocratic family at Durg, Madhya Pradesh, he graudated from Nagpur University he excelled as a cine all rounder writing scripts for several of his hit films, as well as directing and playing stellar roles in them.

Some of his films were "Mayupankh", "Bahu Rani", "Kunwara Baap", "Raja", "Veet Kunal", "Guide", Sindoor and "Apnapan" to name but a few.

Ray films in Ottawa

A major retrospective of up to 17 of the 25 films of Satyajit Ray, India's most well-known filmmaker, will begin at the National Film Theatre on Thursday, September 11th with PATHER PANCHALI, Ray's first film made in 1955. Programmes will continue until mid-December on Thursday evenings with an extended "Images of India" series in November to include the Ottawa Premiere screenings of Louis Malle's PHANTOM INDIA series.

The famous 'Apu Trilogy', long unseen in Canada, begins this major retrospective. The three films, PATHER PANCHALI (1955), APARAJITO (1956), and THE WORLD OF APU (1959) are justly celebrated as major works. They firmly established Ray's name in international cinema and broadened the range of film experiences to emerge from India. The majority of the 600-plus films made in India each year are little more than song-and-dance spectaculars. Ray's films, coming from the state of Bengal, which produces less than 10% of that total each year, have made an impact which makes him stand way ahead of all other filmmakers in India.

The Satyajit Ray retrospective includes many films brought into Canada for the first time and will provide filmgoers with a unique opportunity.

Deforestation

New Delhi, Sept. 5 (UNI) — The world's tropical rain forest are being destroyed at an alarming rate of 30 hectares a minute and at this rate could be wiped out in 50 years.

This warning has come from ecologists who told an international congress at Cairns, Australia, recently that the trend also threatens the already rare and endangered species of flora and fauna.

There are at present some 21,000 species of mammals, birds amphibians, reptiles, fish and plants threatened with extinction, according to participants at the second world wilderness congress. Nearly 42 percent of the earth's rain forests have already been destroyed by mankind over the decades. Only about 935 million heactares remain.

Sick industrial units

New Delhi, Sept. 7 (UNI) — Nearly Rs. 15 billion (1.87 billion dollars) of bank money is locked up in sick industrial units in India according to the latest finance Ministry figures.

This huge amount is accounted for by 345 large and 20,700 small sick industrial units.

According to the Reserve Bank of India, at the end of June 1979, there were 345 large sick industrial units in the country, that is, units enjoying bank credit of Rs. 10 million (1.25 million dollars) or more each. The total bank credit locked up in these units worked out to 5.9 percent of the total bank credit.

Asian badminton

New Delhi, Sept. 12 (UNI) - Twenty-one countries including India will be invited to take part in the fourth Asian Invitational Badminton Championships to be held in Bangkok in November, according to reports received here.

Several member countries of the Asian Badminton Confederation (ABC) have already indicated that they would be participating according to General Phiensak Sosthikul, secretary of the Badminton Association of Thailand.

An ABC meeting in Hong Kong recently endorsed a proposal that Thailand stage the meet so that there is at least one major tournament in the Asian continent every year.

Appeal for temple funds

The Hindu Temple Society of Greater New Orleans was formed in 1979 to provide an opportunity for Hindus residing in New Orleans and surrounding areas to maimain and practice Hindu traditional way of worship. The society aims to educate Hindu children about their religion, customs, traditions, cultural duties and spiritual values. The main objective of the society is to build a Hindu Temple in the Greater New Orleans area.

It is needless to elaborate the positive value of a temple. A temple is a place of worship where there is sanctity and the daily rituals and poojas help develop an atmosphere which is conducive to bringing out the best in us. Again, a temple is a place of tranquility for those who seek solace in meditation, and an important nucleus for a wide range of cultural and religious activities. Above all, the temple would help preserve our ties with Hindu religion and culture and be an altar of Hindu faith for generations to come. Therefore, it is felt necessary to have a Temple in Greater New Orleans area to serve spiritual needs of Hindus residing in southern United States. As you know building a Temple is a formidable task which requires abundant man-power and financial support. Our ambition of building a Temple can be fulfilled only with your generous help. The Hindu Temple Society of Greater New Orleans therefore appeals to all the benevolent public, philanthropists, and to the members of the Hindu Community in particular from all parts of the country, to come forward and assist in this noble endeavor with their donations. All donations are tax deductible.

The address of the Society is: P.O. Box 761, Kenner, LA 70063.

Book Review
Multicultural Canada

by Dean D. Wood

The Ontario Institute For Studies in Education, Toronto, Ontario, 1979.

In the last decade multiculturalism has become a catchword in Canada. Many journalists, academics, eductors, politicians and members of the general public have become more sensitive to, and involved with, both the positive and problematic aspects of Canada's ethnic diversity.

This heightened awarness has not had the desired impact on social studies curricula and instruction. The purpose of this book is to help teachers bridge the gap between awareness and meaningful change in social studies education and, more especially, studies on Canada.

Ethnic studies curricula should guide students to understand and appreciate the interesting and complex features of Canada's diversity, past and present; respect their fellow Canadians regardless of ethnic origin; and value the cultural heritage of our diversity. This book is an excellent guide to ethnic studies for teachers. Included in the guide are: Ethnic studies and social studies curriculum; the focus of ethnic studies; five units of curriculum and introduction to ethnic studies; and a selected bibliography of instructional material.

George Bonavia

Sketches of India

By Stephen Gill

**Vesta Publications Ltd.
Cornwall, Ontario**

A collection of essays by Stephen Gill, originally intended for students in India who wanted to pass their examinations "without working hard", has now appeared in book form to inform readers in Canada and the United States.

It is not clear whether students in India did succeed in their examinations following Gill's lazyman's guide to understanding India but a look at the collection suggests that some of the essays are as irrelevant to India as mom's apple pie can be. "The advantages of newspapers", "Atom for peace", and "Wonders of Modern Science", some of the topics in the collection, neither mention developments in these fields in India nor do they belong in a book mistakenly called "Sketches of India."

Gill's essay on India's foreign policy is a good sample of the collection in which one finds the author's own views of India with simple-minded statements like "India is economically and militarily backward." According to United Nations statistics, India has the tenth largest Gross National Product in the world and it is said to be the fourth most powerful military nation in the world, after the United States, U.S.S.R. and China.

While the interest taken by the author in explaining India to Westerners is laudable, it seems Gill has failed to grasp the linguistic and cultural diversities of India. One gets the impression after reading the essays, a tourist from North America to India would have gained a better insight into India than the author, who seems to limit his knowledge of India to snake charmers and rickshaws.

The author presumptuously states in his introduction that he believes he has succeeded in helping people in North America understand India and its people while he rambles on in essays entitled "The saddest day of my life", in which he talks about his own flunking of his matriculation exams and in "My daily life" in which he boasts that his daily life is "very systematic."

The volume, which has an attractive cover showing a beautiful Indian woman, is sprinkled with autobiographical sketches which are neither informative nor entertaining.

"Sketches of India", will be of interest to those who may be interdsted in such historical information as what time Stephen Gill gets up in the morning or when he takes his afternoon nap.

Ron Santana

Zambia seeks aid

New Delhi, Sept. 7 (UNI) — Zambia has sought India's cooperation in developing small-scale industries in that country. The request was made when the visiting Zambian Minister of Agriculture and Water Development, Mr. U.G. Mwila, called on Dr. Charanjit Chanana, Minister of State for Industry in New Delhi recently.

Dr. Chanana assured the Zambian Minister that India would be glad to help Zambia in developing the small-scale industries there.

Indo-British film on Mahatma

By UNI Correspondent
Mahendra Ved

The life of Mahatma Gandhi, who led India into freedom from foreign rule, will be recaptured in an ambitious film to be produced jointly by Britain and India, possibly with U.S. financial cooperation.

The project is the brain-child of Sir Richard Attenborough, the famous British actor, and film-maker, who first came with it to India 17 years ago. Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minster seemed to have liked the proposal. But before something could be done about it, Nehru died, in May 1964. The project had been hanging fire ever since. Sir Richard's pleas with successive Indian governments somehow did not meet with adequate response.

Behind this lukewarm attitude was the fact that India itself makes a large number of films and has talented filmmakers. Further, Gandhi has been the subject of quite a few films produced in the West, but India felt he had not been treated with due reverence. For India, Gandhi is the most revered personality, but in the hands of a European or an American film-maker, he has become a 'subject' to be moulded according to thematical and celluloid requirements. Therefore, the Attenborough project lay in cold storage in Delhi.

Undeterred, Sir Richard made yet another attempt. And lo and behold, he succeeded this time. He met Prime Minister Indira Gandhi over luch in February this year and spoke of his proposal. Mrs. Gandhi asked for the script, read it, and liked it. Followed several months of negotiations. The project is now ready for the take-off with only the financial arrangement to be finalised.

The Union Cabinet presided over by Mrs. Gandhi met on August 20 and took a decision in principle to participate in the Anglo-Indian project. Up to Rs. 50 million (US $6.25 million) will be generated from various sources for the film, the total budget of which is Rs. 160 million (US$20 million).

In concrete terms, the government decided that the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), a public sector firm engaged in promoting good, small-budget cinema in the country, will co-produce the film with a private firm of Indian film-makers and investors. The British side in the co-production will be Sir Richard's Indo-British Films. Indian participation will begin with floating a firm with an equity participation of Rs. 20 million.

Sir Richard is also raising funds for his side from the International Film Investments of USA and the Gold Crest Film Company of UK.

The two sides will cooperate on the basis of profit-sharing 5 percent of the profits would be reserved for aiding needy persons in the film industry. This, by far, is a unique proposal in a co-production.

The financial aspects apart, the Government of India hopes this co-production will open new vistas of international joint film-making on and in India, bringing together Indian and foreign technicans and artists.

Sir Richard was fascinated with the theme several years ago. During the last day of his life, Gandhi was asked if he had any 'message' to give. Gandhi replied: "My life is my message." Enthused by this line, Sir Richard decided to make a film on the life of the Mahatma.

His first script was written by Gerald Hannley. It was revised several times befors being dropped. Two more scripts were written and abandoned. The present one, by John Briley, who has to his credit "Cromwell", has been seen by Gandhian scholars in India and approved after some changes suggested by them were incorporated.

Once the proposal was approved by the Government of India, a happy Sir Richard told newsmen, "I don't know how to express myself in words." His 17 years of effort had paid off. And yet it is still the beginning. He announced that the film's shooting would begin on Nov. 24 at New Delhi. The film would be shot over the next six months at Bombay, Calcutta, Simla, Patna and Amritsar. Completed next year, it would be ready for release early 1982. Sir Richard said he was confident the film would be received well and would generate profits.

Sir Richard has not yet picked his star cast. All Indian characters would be played by either Indians or Indians settled abroad. It is quite likely that Sir Richard will draw from the rich Indian talent from Broadway and the British stage. Among the characters will be personalities recent and contemporary history — Nehru, the first premier, Vallabhai Patel, his lion-hearted deputy who merged the princely States with the Indian Union in 1947, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, who founded Pakistan, Lord Mountbatten, the last British Viceroy who presided over the transfer of power and Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, staunch nationalist, scholar, theologian and one-time Education Minister.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi, as under-ten child of famous parents at the time of freedom movement, will be done of the characters in the film.

The government of Mrs. Gandhi views this ambitious project as "a great tribute to the Mahatma" and hopes the film will help the younger generation all over the world to "re-discover" Gandhi's message.

These lofty intentions notwithstanding, the project is born amid controversy. First, the government's efforts to rope in private film producers and investors have succeeded only to an extent. The latter are reluctant to invest huge sums in an English language project of little commercial valne in the Indian market. There have been reports of the Government pressurising the film-makers, a charge that has been denied by the Government.

Secondly, several prominent film-makers have protested against the Government aiding and financing a British filmmaker for an Indian subject when it could be done in India by Indians themselves. They pointed out that Indian film-makers approaching for loans are either denied aid or given no more than Rs. five lakhs per project, which is a pittance.

The Government has not been able to reply to all the points raised by Indian film-makers. It has, however, clarified that the finances of the National Film Development Corporation which promotes small budget films and extends loans to film makers will remain unaffected by the Indo-British venture. In effect, separate finances would be allocated for the co-production.

An earlier project on Gandhi, "Nine Hours to Rama" earned the Government's disapproval and it was banned in India. An Indian venture, "Five Past Five", exploring the psychology of Nathuram Godse, the assassin of Gandhi, was also banned. It was shown abroad and earned critical notice.

Sir Richard Attenborough is no stranger to Indian filmgoers, who have seen him in many a film. His major directorial venture, "A Bridge Too Far", a World War II saga, was received well. But Indians remember his best for his role of General Outram, the British Resident of Lucknow, in Satyajit Ray's "Shatranj ke Khilari". The film, made by India's best known director, had a galaxy of acting talent.

Better planes for flying clubs

New Delhi, Sept. 12 (UNI) - A decision on equipping India's Flying Clubs with aerobatic aircraft is likely to be taken by the government soon.

According to official sources, a report of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) submitted about four months ago, was being processed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

The proposal to replace the obsolete pushpaks at the country's 25 flying clubs with modern aerobatic aircraft was taken up about four years ago at the instance of the aero club of India. It took about three years for the DGCA to select the U.S. Built "cessna aerobat" for the purpose but the choice is yet to be approved by the ministry.

The aero club co-ordinates the activities of the flying clubs. It gets substantial aid from the government in this regard as the primary objective of the flying clubs is to promote interest in aviation.

After the DGCA report, the Kerala Flying Institute, Trivandrum, and the Punjab aviation department, Chandigarh, asked for immediate permission to buy aerobatical aircraft. Both of them, however, are awaiting the ministry's clearance.

Sources said modern aerobatic aircraft are essential for advanced training as only pilots conversant with aerobatic moves could display necessary skill in bringing a stricken aircraft to safety.

It may be recalled here that on June 23, Sanjay Gandhi, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's second son, crashed to death while attempting to perform advanced aerobatics in a U.S. made pitts aircraft. He had used the untimed U.S. aircraft to the Pushpak available with Delhi Flying Club.

The goverument has already decided to phase out the Pushpaks built by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

There are some 90 Pushpaks with the Flying Clubs in India. Built over 15 years ago, some of them are lying unused.

DUNCAN GREEN

Duncan Green, Director of the Toronto Board of Education, was honoured by over 150 representatives at a recent get-together. The combination thank you and congratulations party was held at Harbord Collegiate, for his past work at the Toronto Board of Education and his recent thirteen month appointment to the Ministry of Education

Politica

(Presented to the Annual Conference of National Association of Canadians with Origins in India (NACOI) on August 16, 1980)

By Dr. Gurbachan S. Paul

The question for us today has been raised time and time again — how do you attain political participation in the Canadian society? The question bears a repetition because in argument discussion an exchange of views emerges a clearer strategy for achieving the objectives of political participation.

I would like to present the question of political participation from four distinct angles.

1. Need for political participation — the philosophical premise.
2. History of our political participation.
3. Strategy for political participation.
4. Tools for organizing the strategy.

1. Need For Polltical Participation

There is an intrinsic need in every human being to participate in the political aspects of society. This need springs partly from the strength of one's political connections and partly from the power seeking motive. Having said that, it's equally important to remember the concommittant societal need for individual participation in the political process. It is not uncommon for the larger society to ostrasize individuals who are perceived to be solely in pursuit of economic goals to the exclusion of political goals. In this context it must be said that involvement in the political process is perceived as an indication of the individual's desire to be of service to the society, as well as the fulfillment of his or her social responsibility. When we look into the history of our immigration into East Africa and Southeast Asia, it becomes apparent that our primary goal was economic, and given the determination and hard work, which is characteristic of our community, we quickly rose to become significantly successful to the relative exclusion of involvement or prominence on the political front. At least in part our insensitivity to the political aspect led to our unceremonious expulsion from some of these countries. It is the hingsight, therefore, that makes us acutely aware of letting ourselves drift into a similar situation here in Canada. No matter how much material wealth we accumulate unless we constantly chip away and make inroads into the politics of a nation, we may expect no better treatment than the Indians received in East Africa or Southeast Asia.

2. History of Our Political Participation

Historically speaking when we first arrived in this country we belonged largely to the unskilled labour class. Some of us started farming and began to use our entrepreneurial skills towards the fulfillment of our economic goals. The next immigrant group to enter the country were the professionals, teachers, medical doctors, engineers etc. There was little meeting ground between the farmers, the unskilled labourers and the professional groups of East Indian immigrants. So distinct and separate were their goals that it was nearly impossible to expect them to achieve any cohesiveness to enter the political arena. More recently especially with the migration of Indians with broader professiona diversity, we have significantly added another category — the businessmen, who have the potential of becoming the economic elite. The numbers of the professional mix and timing is just right for us to move boldly and resolutely into the political arena. This move must take place expeditiously, with a carefully planned strategy and without self consciousness pertaining to ethnicity.

Political participation

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3. Strategy For Political Participation

The strategy for political participation is predicated on two factors. First, the development of the political conviction, and secondly, the ability to organize the conviction into action. The effectiveness of the second factor is dependent on the fervour and honesty of the first. So far as conviction is concerned, you may either subscribe to the entire platform of an existing political philosophy or take up one cause which stimulates you and see where it fits within the existing political framework. I feel strongly about the honesty and sincerity underlying a political conviction because to win a popular vote of confidence you must honestly believe in yourself and the idea you are expounding. It is the importance of conviction which has, historically, been responsible for political ascendancy of religious groups throughout the world, and particularly in India. Without making a value judgement on the end result, one can only marvel at the charisma of the individual who stands behind the pulpit, or in a mosque or temple and sways the masses with the strength of his conviction. I personally feel that in this day and age we cannot regroup on the basis of religion especially not in the Canadian context. But I do believe that the same enthusiasm may be engendered for humanitarian causes.

Religious groups are a natural birthplace for humanitarian causes, but we must move the cause within group structures that are more relevant to modern day Canadian society.

One example we can gainfully borrow from the Ukrainians (who have treaded the path we are trying to tread) is to work from strength by forming organizations that make better contemporary sense. For example a professional and businessman's organization can become a very valuable strategic tool for political participation. As stated earlier, our community is the right size and right professional mix to form such an organization and concentrate on giving it a political orientation. An organization such as an East Indian Canadian professional and businessmen forum will spawn political leadership which will make definite inroads into the Canadian political system.

To backtrack for a moment, up until now our community has seen individuals who have come forward with energy, enthusiasm and resources, and have tried to break into the high political echelons. Over time it has become abundantly clear that no matter how close-minded the individual, he/she will not be able to break into the political arena without a highly motivated and effective support system which can only be provided by an organization which has clearly set goals to help fulfil political ambitions of individual South Asians, who have the good of the community and the society at large at heart.

4. Tools For Organizing the Strategy

a) NACOI should directly participate in encouraging members of our community to run for political office at various levels of government and nominate them to join important boards and other organizations which play a significant role in the decision process of Canada. They should encourage the community to get involved through elected officers by writing them letters and giving constructive suggestions for actions which would benefit our community and the society as a whole.

b) Members of our community should not push and shove our way through the political system. We should pay our dues which are essential in the political process because political power attained without appropriate support systems would be ineffective. It also has the danger of backlash which may have more long range negative side effects than positive strengths that we want to achieve from our participation in the process.

c) Individuals must decide on a political philosophy and the overall long-term goals that are to be achieved from participating in the political process.

d) We should encourage our community members to join political parties and work in the constituency committees and offices especially before and during the election periods. It is to be remembered that it is not the majority that wins an election but rather an effective organized dedicated minority working to win.

e) We should not be apologists for seeking power obtaining a political office is a double-edged sword. There is no doubt that the individual involved in the political process gains some self-satisfaction, however when the desire for personal power is based on a political philosophy serving the population as a whole rather than on one's own personal and self-motivated goals then it is not only worthwhile fighting for but rather it is essential to gain political power.

f) Remember one's own community is the most critical of its members actions. They would be the most difficult to please and to gain support from, but they would also be the ones who would come for help at the most crucial periods of need.

g) In a broader political race it is not advisable to make race relations as the main election issue. Elections are to be fought on broader political platforms which affect everybody in the constituency.

h) Always create a nucleus of your own people who would defend you externally at all costs but who would be constructively critical of you within the group when there is a need for such criticism.

Above are some general thoughts based on primarily my own experience living in Canada for the last 20 years. These comments are not to philosophise or develop a certain theory of political participation, however, it was felt that some of these thoughts may generate some discussion so that specific strategies for political participation by our community in Canada can be developed to strengthen our position in the society.

Tie up proposals

New Delhi, Sept. 7 (UNI) — India's foreign investment board has approved 182 proposals for foreign collaboration for the country's industries during the first six months of this year, it is learnt.

Among the proposals approved, 17 percent involved both financial and technical collaboration while the remaining sought technical help only.

The areas in which foreign participation has been approved include the manufacture of bimetal bearings, halogen lamps, plate-bending machines and rubber.

India already has a large number of foreign firms mainly from Britain, the United States, West Germany, Japan and other Western countries at different levels of collaboration in the drugs, luxury goods, atomic energy, electronics and related industries in the private sector. The socialist countries have helped India set up its basic industries in the public sector.

To buy or to start a business

By Jay Chauhan

Embarking on a business venture can be an opportunity to increase personal assets and improve entrepreneurial skills. However, the uninformed may run into expensive problems. An understanding of basic law can help prevent unnecessary difficulties.

Whether you buy an existing business or start a new one will depend on local opportunities and available resources. Make sure you know why the establishment is for sale and that you can resolve all the problems. All too often a business is being sold because the owner was confronted with a problem he or she was unable to overcome. For example, if a previous owner was restricted by by-laws, those laws will also restrict you in running the business.

The biggest question in the mind of a buyer is, "How much should I pay?" An appraiser and an accountant can provide important information on the value of an established enterprise. The appraiser will determine the value of the physical assets of the business; land and fixtures, for example, while the accountant will describe the financial picture.

A real estate agent's job is to find and sell property. A real estate agent is not an appraiser unless he or she is so qualified. More importantly, a real estate agent receives a commission from the seller and is legally obliged to the seller, not the buyer. Even if there is a second agent involved in the sale, the agent owes his or her legal duty to the seller. It is important that you seek independent legal advice when buying a business through a real estate agent.

A lawyer should be consulted about the wording of a purchase agreement. This job should not be left to the real estate agent as there are legal and tax considerations in any sale which will have a bearing on the success of the business venture. A lawyer can also provide advice on the relative merits of buying a business through the purchase of its assets, or, if it is an incorporated company, through the purchase of its shares.

Starting from Scratch

It is important to know the local and provincial laws which regulate or perhaps even prohibit the business activities you are planning. Therefore, it is a good idea to get legal advice before you begin to build your own business. Equally important is deciding on the legal form your business will take.

Financing

Since most banks work with rigid lending formulae set by their head office: local branch managers have little or no discretion about who gets a business loan. However, your bank manager can be an important ally whether or not you get a loan through his or her bank. Besides giving general advice on the local marketplace and local financing opportunities, your bank manager can advise you about federal and provincial business grants or loans.

The Federal Business Development B ank (FBDB) is a government-funded bank designed to assist the business person with financing problems. The FBDB is a lender of "last resort", that is, it may help you even after every other bank has refused to give you a loan. You can learn more about the FBDB by writing to:

Federal Business Development Bank
4430 Bathurst Street
Toronto, Ontario
or calling 416-638-0823.

More information on federal or provincial business loans can also be obtained from your federal or provincial member of parliament.

Insurance and Leases

Because different businesses have different insurance needs, you should get advice from a good insurance agent. Theft and fire insurance as well as coverage for accidents to people using your premises or products, are just the basics in any insurance package. Your insurance agent should understand the nature of your business and ensure that your policy is comprehensive enough to cover all possible calamities.

Signing a lease is not "just a formality". Even if a standard form lease is used, you should consult your lawyer before signing to make sure your particular business interests are protected.

A common mistake which could have disastrous consequences is failure to register a lease in cases where it is appropriate to do so. Ontario is divided into geographic areas which are governed by the **Registry Act**, the **Land Titles Act** or both. In areas governed by the **Land Titles Act**, leases with a term of more than three years **should** be registered; in those areas governed by the **Registry Act**, leases of seven years **must** be registered. Failure to register could mean that a subsequent purchaser of the property may not be bound by the lease you signed.

Queries can be directed to:

Land Titles Office
100 Queen Street, West
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N4
416-965-5248

of your local Registry Office.

Assistance from Accountants and Lawyers

Knowing when and how to use the professional assistance of accountants and lawyers can be critically important. For example, it is both costly and a misuse of his or her skills to retain a chartered accountant as a bookkeeper. Your accountant can often make helpful suggestions about things like management of cash flow, keeping inventories, and the formulation and achievement of financial targets.

A lawyer should be consulted **before** you buy or start a business and **before** you sign an offer to purchase, a lease or partnership agreement. Lawyers can advise you on how to deal with routine commercial transactions as well as large contracts.

Cost is one of the biggest deterrents to the business person seeking legal advice. Many lawyers though, are prepared to give a first interview for a nominal fee. You should check on this when you arrange the first meeting. Don't be afraid to ask your lawyer how he or she determines fees. If you feel that a lawyer's bill is too high, you can appeal to the Taxing Master or Local Registrar within 14 days of receiving your bill. Unfortunately, many people seek a lawyer only when their business is in great difficulty or perhaps involved in a court action. These people often incur far greater costs than they would have had they sought legal advice at the appropriate time.

This article is accurate as of July, 1980. For more information on this and other legal topics, contact Community Legal Education Ontario, 111 Queen Street, East, Suite 310, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 1S2. For legal advice contact your local lawyer or Legal Clinic.

KITCHEN KORNER

By Pranati SenGupta

CALORIE CHART

Breakfast guideline:

½ cup fresh orange juice	56 calories
½ grapefruit	52 cal.
1 oz. ready to eat cereal	105 cal.
½ cup skim milk	44 cal.
1 tsp. sugar	16 cal.
1 slice bread depending the variety	56 to 80 calories
1 tbsp. jelly	50 calories
1 tbsp. butter about	100 cal.
½ cup cooked oatmeal	65 cal.
1 cup black coffee	5 cal.
2 large boiled or poached eggs	160 cal.
2 large fried eggs	226 cal.

Lunch guideline: (According to nutritional analyses supplied by the companies(

McDonald's Big Mac... 541 calories
McDonald's Big Brazier Deluxe 470 cal.
2 pieces of Kentucky chicken, cole slaw and rolls (no fries(595 cal.
2 pieces crispy chicken with cole slaw and rolls (no fries 665 cal.
3 pieces Kentucky chicken dinner 830 cal.
3 pieces crispy chicken with same thing 950 cal.
Fish & chips : 2 pieces fish, fries and cole slaw 955 cal.
Half of a 10 inch pizza "supreme" with thin crust and cheese 510 cal.
Half of a 13 inch pizza "supreme" with thin crust and cheese 850 cal.
Half of a thick crusted 15 inch cheese pizza 1200 cal.
A small bowl of cream soup 200 cal.
A roast beef sandwich 400 cal.

4 tbsp. peanut butter 380 cal.
1 cup plain yogurt 100 to 150 depending on milk used
1 cup fruit yogurt 227 cal.
2 oz. cheddar cheese 227 cal.
1 cup cottage cheese 280 cal.
1 med. apple 70 cal.
1 med. banana 100 ca..
1 fresh peach 35 cal.
1 plain Danish pastry 275 cal.
1 yeast doughnut 175 cal.
1 cookie 82 cal.

Dinner guideline:

3 oz. cooked veal cutlet - 180 cal.
about 3 oz. regular hamburg meat 320 cal..
3 oz. lamb chops 350 cal.
2 oz. pork chops 220 cal.
2 oz. roasted turkey 107 cal.
2 oz. lean sirloin steaks 115 cal.
4 oz. cooked cod fish 84 calories and 80 of which are protein
1 baked potato 90 cal.
½ cup converted cooked rice 93 cal.
½ cup cooked spaghetti 78 cal.
1 hamburg roll 164 cal.
Vegetables:
1 medium tomato 35 cal.
1 cup cooked peas 114 cal.
1 cup cooked parsnips 139 cal.
1 small whole raw cucumber 15 cal.
1 cup cooked diced carrots 50 cal.
1 cup cooked broccoli 43 cal.
1 cup coleslaw, raw 119 cal.
1 cup cooked cabbage 29 cal.
1 cup cooked beets 52 cal,
1 cup cooked cauliflower 28 cal.
1 cup canned sweet corn 140 cal.
1 cup green bean cooked 31 cal.
1 cup cooked Asparagus 36 cal.

Dessert:

1/7 cut fruit pies 343 cal.
1 (2 inch piece) chocolate cake 407 cal.
1 cookie 82 cal.
½ cup fresh strawberries 27 cal.
1 cup fresh cubed pineapple 71 cal.
½ medium cantaloupe 56 cal.

Salad Dressings: Commercial Mayonnaise 1 tbsp. 65 calories.
French dressings 1 tbsp. 72 cal.

Don't forget that calories come in liquid form too:

12 oz. beer - 150 cal.
2 oz. martini - 150 cal.
2 oz. manhattan - 150 cal.
5 oz. light dry wine - 100 cal.
5 oz. sweet wine - 150 cal.
1 oz. liqueur - 100 cal.
1 large milkshake - 830 cal.
1 soft drink - 100 cal.
1 cup butter milk - 90 cal.
1 cup skim milk - 87 cal.
1 cup whole milk - 166 cal.
½ cup canned tomato juice - 23 cal.

Delhi Dacca agreement

New Delhi (IBS) — India and Bangladesh agreed on certain concrete measures to find mutually acceptable solutions to their bilateral problems. Bangladesh Foreign Minister Prof. Shamsul Haq claimed that talks he had held with Indian External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao were "very fruitful".

A joint statement on the result of the talks is to be issued but indications are that both sides have been able to agree only on interim measures, such as follow-up talks on issues that have strained their ties.

Landslide kills 250

New Delhi, India (UPI) - Landslides in the Himalaya Mountains sent giant boulders and tons of earth crashing down onto India's northeastern tea-growing region around the city of Darjeeling, killing at least 250 people and trapping 30,000 others, officials reported.

Calcutta's **Statesman** newspaper reported from Darjeeling that "hardly any house is left standing" in three villages close to the main town, following the avalanches caused by heavy monsoon rains in the mountains.

UNICEF scheme

New Delhi (IBS) — A new three-year plan of cooperation beginning next year is being launched by UNICEF in 80 districts of 13 states as part of the Area Development Program.

The essence of this program is to provide delivery services to children and women in a convergent manner. A basic promise is that UNICEF resources, which are limited, can have the desired effect if they are covered in selected areas.

Fighting blood cancer

Porto Novo (Tamil Nadu) (UNI) — The centre for advanced study in Marine Biology here has claimed success in isolating an anti- leukaemia agent from a marine bacteria.

Director of the Centre Dr. R. Natarajan told UNI that clinical studies were in progress to study the efficacy of the compound L-Asparaginase in the treatment of human and animal leukaemia.

Black market in vitamin C

Madras, (UNI) — A flourishing black market in basic vitamin C has gripped India's drugs industry following the recent decision by the government to control its distribution through the chemicals and Pharamaceutical Corporation (CPC), according to drugs manufacturers here.

No birth control for tigers

New Delhi (UNI) — The Indian Tiger, whose dwindling population has been causing concern to wild life conservationists, appears to have been devised a way to save itself from extinction. The method seems to be self-generated facundity.

A recent tiger census in India has shown a marked rise in its population from 2,279 in 1977 to 3,015 in 1979. The first ever census was conducted in 1972 when on a conservative estimate the tiger population was reckoned at a little over 1800.

Though this is nowhere near the estimated tiger population of 40,000 at the turn of the century, conservationists believe that saving the tiger is no longer a mere academic issue. However, conservationists attribute the over 30 percent rise since 1972 to the blanket ban on tiger shooting and launching of "project tiger" in April 1973 in the 11 reserves.

Information explosion

New Delhi (UNI) - The latest developments in communications technology would greatly facilitate speedy exchange of information between countries and should prove to be of great benefit to public relations practitioners and information media men, according to an Indian expert in the field.

In his forthcoming book "Public Relations - A Scientific Approach", Baldeo Sahai, retired Deputy Principal Information Officer, Government of India, makes a plea for greater use of the new technical advances to humanise media output and put across the message in a manner which would enhance human idealism and not pander to human weakness.

Briefly referring to the latest advances, author Sahai says there are today communications satellites in the sky covering the entire area of the earth. These are like "eyes" in the sky, scanning every bit of our planet all the year round twenty-four hours a day. They continuously receive messages and transmit them. Some of them are fitted with powerful cameras which record images and relay them back to earth.

In addition to the three satellites, one each over the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Indian Oceans covering almost the entire earth, there are regional and domestic satellites providing communication facilities to specific regions or countries.

On the earth there are coaxial cables carrying nearly 11,000 channels each, Sahai says in his book. These are about to be replaced by millimetre waveguide systems which will carry up to 250,000 channels. This will increase the transmission capacity from 650 million words per second per channel in a coaxial cable to 15,000 million words in the new system. When laser beams come into operation, this figure will jump to 100,000 million words per second. This communication capacity offers unlimited opportunities to the human race to share knowledge on an unprecedented scale.

For those in public relations dealing directly with dissemination of information, the new technologies are of the utmost importance for several reasons, author Sahai states. First, they have to integrate these techniques in the systems of their thinking and keep on increasing their fund of information continuously. Secondly, they have to learn to apply these tools wisely for the good of the community. New tools will be what man makes of them. Thirdly, they have to take note of developments these techniques have spawned and accelerated in other areas.

Breast feeding is best

Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) (Uni) — Breast feeding in developing countries should be actively encouraged and promoted not only as the safest, simplest and most inexpensive form of infant feeding but also as a safe method of contraception.

This is the conclusion reached by the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad, after a survey it conducted on 1079 urban women, mostly from the low income group.

The women who were studied were between the age groups of 10 and 45 years.

In its report the NIN said that during the last decade there had been a sharp decline in breast feeding due to increasing urbanisation, education and betterment of social-economic status.

The report emphasised that breast feeding ensured maternal and child health and added that worldwide demographic and laboratory investigations had sustained the age-old belief that breast feeding prolonged post partum amenorrhea and offered some degree of protection against pregnancy and therefore a check against population growth.

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Relief so

New Delhi (UNI) - The air conditioning and refrigeration industry has sought duty reliefs to enable it to meet not only the growing domestic demands but also exploit the vast export potential in West Asian and North African markets.

Addressing the Annual General Meeting of the All India Airconditioning and Refrigeration Association here, its president Chaman Mahajan said heavy taxation was retarding the growth of the industry. Air-conditioning and refrigeration products should be considered as "appliances" for duty purposes.

He regretted that while the excise duty on items like television was only 10 per cent, it ranged between 40 and 13 per cent in the case of AC and refrigeration products.

The basic problem in communications, particularly telephone exchanges, was lack of airconditioning required for proper function-

Missiles to be

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The Government informed members of Parliament that the Research and Development Organisation was being asked to undertake major projects. In the field of aeronautics the develop-

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Relief sought

New Delhi (UNI) - The air conditioning and refrigeration industry has sought duty reliefs to enable it to meet not only the growing domestic demands but also exploit the vast export potential in West Asian and North African markets.

Addressing the Annual General Meeting of the All India Airconditioning and Refrigeration Association here, its president Chaman Mahajan said heavy taxation was retarding the growth of the industry. Air-conditioning and refrigeration products should be considered as "appliances" for duty purposes.

He regretted that while the excise duty on items like television was only 10 per cent, it ranged between 40 and 13 per cent in the case of AC and refrigeration products.

The basic problem in communications, particularly telephone exchanges, was lack of airconditioning required for proper functioning and maintenance of sophisticated equipment.

Similarly Mr. Mahajan said shortage of milk and milk products was due to lack of refrigerated vans and systems which would facilitate transportation over long distances. Power generation also depended upon properly airconditioned control rooms. Textile and rayon industries could not work without proper airconditioning.

In view of the importance of the industry, Mr. Mahajan said, "the Government should make substantial reduction in excise duty on refrigerators, airconditioners, water coolers and other appliances".

Secondly, concessional rate of excise duty should be made applicable to AC and refrigeration equipment used in hospitals run by public undertakings, railway and roadtransport, ships and frigates and assembly and library halls.

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The Government informed members of Parliament that the Research and Development Organisation was being asked to undertake major projects. In the field of aeronautics the development of a gas turbine engine is being actively pursued. Advanced technology is also being considered in the field of material technology, metallurgical as well as high temperature resistance plastic materials.

Sophisticated sonar systems for the Navy were also being worked on, while modern torpedoes and advanced systems of sonobuys were being produced. Mrs. Gandhi who presided over the meeting stated that India's aid was now to produce as much equipment with the utmost efficiency.

Save trees plea

Bombay, (UNI) — The silent Valley in Kerala is among the few oxygen belts in the country and not a single tree there should be felled, according to Dr. Richard St. Barbe Baker, founder of the "Men of the trees" Movement.

Speaking at a reception accorded by the Indian Merchant's Chamber and other organizations, including the World Wild Life Fund, he appealed to the Indian people to save the forests of the Silent Valley to maintain the oxygen bank.

Mr. Baker (91), who is regarded as the greatest living authority on trees, said it took 16 trees to produce enough oxygen for one person. If trees were destroyed, particularly in cities like Bombay, people would choke to death for lack of oxygen.

Dr. Baker said he believed that "unless we play fair to the earth and practise the law of return, we cannot exist physically on this planet.

Forged certificates

New Delhi, Sept. 7 (UNI) — Twelve Indian garment exporters and seven French importers are suspected to be involved in a forged certificate racket.

This is the finding of D.K. Nair, who was sent by the commerce ministry to look into the allegations made by both France and Italy that Indian authorities are issuing wrong certificates. This, according to them, had led to oversubscription to the garment export quotas.

The report, now under active consideration of the ministry states: "A further detailed examination will have to be necessary to identify these exporters."

These exporters are not only thriving at the cost of small exporters but also bringing a bad name to the country.

During his investigations Mr. Nair found that some 150,000 pieces were involved in the racket. Mr. Nair came to the conclusion that certifications to the above mentioned quantities under various categories were covered by export certificates that "prima facie seem to have been forged". In most of these cases the signatures I saw in the export certificates in Paris do not even resemble the original," Mr. Nair reported.

A commerce ministry official said the ministry was looking into the report.

Price hike

New Delhi (IBS) — In the first four weeks following the presentation of Venkataraman's budget, wholesale prices shot up by nearly five percent, an unparalleled record in recent years. Statistics show that despite the Finance Ministry hope about curbing prices, the spiral in the wholesale index has continued its upward trend.

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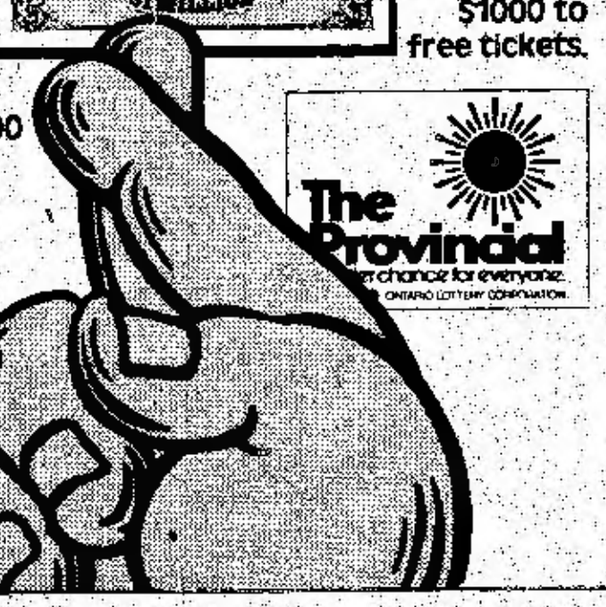

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Seeks a girl tall slim, good looking, 28 to 35 years, Hindu or Moslem, single or divorced. Please write with details. M-1724, The Canadian India Times.

Pretty, charming and accomplished girl from good family for smart and handsome medical doctor settled in England (age 28, height 5'8"). Contact brother at (416) 495-5481.

Match sought for talented, good-looking, well-educated Tamilian Iyer girl, 32. P.O. Box 152, Postal Station 'B', Ottawa.

A Jat Sikh Match for an attractive, slim, tall, convent educated, immigrant girl, 21. Family well settled in Canada. Only professionals need apply. Write to M-1729, The Canadian India Times.

Well settled Brahmin medical doctor and engineer brother looking for match for younger brother, Captain in The Indian Army, visiting Canada September, October. Caste no Bar. M-1730, The Canadian India Times.

A 22-26 yrs. old professionally qualified Ramgarhia match for a beautiful Canadian citizen girl, 22. B.Com., educated in Canada, holding excellent office job. Please send full particulars and recent photograph to the parents at: P.O. Box 3, Waterloo, Ontario, N2J 3Z6.

Wanted an Aggrawal (non-Garg) match for a fair and attractive girl, 22. Presently in India. Two brothers well settled in Canada. Contact: C. Grag, 30 High St. East, Port Credit, Ontario (418) 271-0369.

Correspondence with recent returnable photos invited from parents of educated, pretty and homely girls for a handsome cleanshaven Jat Sikh (B.Sc. in Agriculture and animal husbandry) bachelor, 27, 165 cms tall, well settled in Kuwait. Visiting Canada in November, 1980. Contact the Advertiser, P.O. Box 20962, Safat, Kuwait (A.G.).

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Indian states remain backward

New Delhi, Sept. 12 (UNI) - Uneven development of Indian States and regional disparities continue to be major economic problems despite increasing Central aid to the States.

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Member Planning Commission, the Governments apex body responsible for the five year plans, told the opening session of the first All-India Conference on Centre-State Relations and Regional Disparities here on August 29 that several Indian States though rich in resources have remained undeveloped and poor.

Inaugurating the two-day conference, organised by the recently formed Society for the Study of Regional Disparities, Dr. Swaminathan said the per capita transfer of resources of Bihar was Rs 200 under the draft Sixth Plan against Rs 19 in the Second Plan. But in spite of this step-up, Bihar still remained a backward State, he added.

Dr. Swaminathan, however, said that investment per se need not necessarily lead to removal of regional disparities if "pure human parameters of measurement" are used. For example, establishment of a steel plant will not necessarily lead to improvement in the standard of living of the people in the neighbourhood. He pointed out that in spite of big investment in building a sound communication system in the Garhwal district of Uttar Pardesh, 95 per cent of people in that area live below the poverty line.

He reiterated that efforts should be made for human resource development through family-oriented programmes and for greater exploitation of solar energy. In India, human resources are grossly undervalued, he said.

Dr. Swaminathan attributed the progress achieved by Rajasthan and Karnataka in recent years to the two States' ability to develop their farm sector with a view to providing opportunities for diversified ancillary activities for the masses. Referring to Punjab, Dr. Swaminathan said the State achieved phenomenal progress because of the system of owner cultivation, land consolidation facilities and adequate supply of energy. However, more attention should be given to the eastern sector, he added.

Dr. M.V. Mathur, Director, National Staff College for Educational Planning and Administration, underlined the need for stepping up both non-plan and plan activities.

Referring to the Centre-State relationship, Dr. Mathur said while there should be co-ordination between the two, States should take a greater initiative in development work.

Penna security slack

Jabalpur, (Madhya Pardesh) — (UNI) Smugglers slip in and out of the 350 sq. mile Panna diamond fields in this state with as much ease as they would wish despite official claims to the contrary. Inquiries by UNI show that the diamond fields are far from being sealed off to intruders as just 28 diamond guards (Hira Siphai) and the three inspectors detailed for the vast area are inadequate to guard the scattered mines.

The nearness of Khajuraho, less than 50 km from Panna, is an added boon to smugglers as the famed tourist spot is linked by air.

The superintendent of police told UNI that smuggling of diamonds from the fields was little.

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